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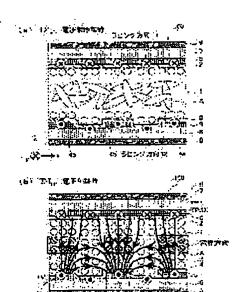
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# (54) DISPLAY ELEMENT AND DEVICE

## (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To realize a display element having low driving voltage and high response performance.

SOLUTION: The display element 100 includes combshaped electrodes 4 and a flat-plate-shaped electrode 5 as electric field applying means. A negative liquid crystal material A in a dielectric substance layer 1 showing an isotropic phase is aligned by an electric field in a substrate in-plane direction generated between respective electrodes of the comb-shaped electrodes 4 and an electric field in a substrate normal direction generated between the comb-shaped electrodes 4 and the flat-plate-shaped electrode 5.



# **LEGAL STATUS**

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### CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

In the display device equipped with an electric-field impression means means to produce electric field, in the dielectric matter layer pinched by the substrate of the pair which counters, and the substrate of the above-mentioned pair, and the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer, At the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, the optical isotropy is shown in the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer, and the liquid crystallinity matter which optical anisotropy discovers is included in it by impressing an electrical potential difference, The above-mentioned electric-field impression means is a display device characterized by producing the first electric field containing the line of electric force of a direction perpendicular to the above-mentioned substrate side, and the second electric field containing the line of electric force of a direction parallel to the above-mentioned substrate side.

[Claim 2]

The above-mentioned electric-field impression means consists of the first electrode and the second electrode which were formed in one substrate, and the third electrode formed in the substrate of another side,

The first electric field of the above are produced by impressing an electrical potential difference between the first electrode of the above, and the third electrode, and between the second electrode of the above, and the third electrode,

The display device according to claim 1 characterized by producing the second electric field of the above by impressing an electrical potential difference between the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode.

[Claim 3]

The first electrode of the above and the second electrode of the above have two or more parallel electrode pairs mutually, respectively,

The display device according to claim 2 characterized by being arranged by turns so that the above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the above-mentioned electrode pair in the second electrode of the above may become parallel mutually in the direction parallel to the substrate side of the above-mentioned substrate.

[Claim 4]

Each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode is a display device according to claim 3 characterized by consisting of a configuration which extends in an one direction.

[Claim 5]

:

Each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode is a display device according to claim 3 characterized by seeing from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal, and having a zigzag configuration.

[Claim 6]

The third electrode of the above is a display device given in any 1 term of claims 2-4 characterized by having the potential of an average of the potential in the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode of the above.

[Claim 7]

A display device given in any 1 term of claims 2-6 to which at least one side of the first electrode and the second electrode which were formed in the substrate of the method of top Norikazu and its substrate, the third electrode formed in the substrate of another side and its substrate, and \*\* is characterized by the transparent thing to the light.

[Claim 8]

The above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter is a display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-7 characterized by the dielectric constant of the direction of a minor axis of a molecule consisting of a larger liquid crystal molecule than the dielectric constant of the direction of a major axis.

[Claim 9]

The above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter is liquid crystallinity matter which carries out phase transition to a nematic phase and an isotropic phase,

A display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-8 characterized by showing the optical isotropy at the time of no above-mentioned electrical-potential-difference impressing when the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter presents an isotropic phase.

[Claim 10]

The molecule which constitutes the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter,

A display given in any 1 term of claims 1-9 characterized by having the order structure below optical wavelength at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and for the above-mentioned order structure changing by impressing an electrical potential difference, and showing optical anisotropy.

[Claim 11]

the liquid crystal molecule of the liquid crystallinity matter contained in the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer between at least one side of the above-mentioned substrate, and the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — a display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-10 characterized by preparing the orientation film which carries out orientation in the perpendicular direction. [Claim 12]

the above-mentioned orientation film — the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — the display device according to claim 11 characterized by performing rubbing processing for making orientation carry out in the perpendicular direction.

[Claim 13]

the above-mentioned orientation film — the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — the display device according to claim 11 characterized by coming to form many slots for carrying out orientation in the perpendicular direction.

[Claim 14]

The slot of above-mentioned a large number is a display device given in any 1 term of claims 3-13 characterized by consisting of a configuration which extends in the direction parallel to each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode.

When each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode sees from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal and has a zigzag configuration,

The slot of above-mentioned a large number is a display device according to claim 14 characterized by seeing from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal, and consisting of a configuration which extends at zigzag in the direction parallel to each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode.

[Claim 16]

It is a display device to any 1 term of claims 1-15 characterized by forming the orientation nominal member for making the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer promote the manifestation of the above-mentioned optical anisotropy.

[Claim 17]

The above-mentioned orientation nominal member is a display device according to claim 16 characterized by consisting of a chain macromolecule ingredient, mesh-like polymeric materials, a porosity inorganic material, or a hydrogen bond object.

[Claim 18]

A display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-17 characterized by the chiral agent being added by the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer.

[Claim 19]

A display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-17 to which the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer is characterized by being the chiral matter.

[Claim 20]

The liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer is a display device given in any 1 term of claims 1-19 characterized by a refractive index changing in proportion to the 2nd order of field strength.

[Claim 21]

The display characterized by providing the display device of a publication in any 1 term of claims 1-20.

## [Translation done.]

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### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention]

[0001]

This invention relates to the display device used for a display in the condition of presenting the isotropic phase, and a display.

[Background of the Invention]

[0002]

From the former, the liquid crystal display component using a pneumatic liquid crystal begins from the display device which indicates the numeric value of a clock, a calculator, etc. by the segmental die, and has spread widely also as the notebook PC which harnessed the advantage of space-saving and a low power, and a display for desktop monitors. And in recent years, LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)—TV is building a steadfast status as a representation rank of FPD (Flat Panel Display) also in the commercial scene of television currently monopolized by CRT (Cathode Ray Tube).

[0003]

By the way, in conventional LCD-TV, it has been a technical problem to raise the high-speed

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animation response engine performance in which it can respond to an animation, and the wide-field-of-view angle engine performance in which an image and image quality do not change with the include angles to see.

# [0004]

Namely, the Twisted Nematic (TN (Twisted Nematic)) mode which is the liquid crystal display mode of a pneumatic liquid crystal phase, TN mode, in plane switching (IPS (In-Plane-Switching)) mode which were optically compensated with the phase contrast plate, Vertical alignment (VA (Vertical Alignment)) mode, And although optical compensation bend (OCB (Optically Compensated Birefringence)) mode etc. has some which have already come out to the commercial scene as LCD-TV, to raise further the high-speed animation engine performance and the wide-field-of-view angle engine performance is desired.

[0005]

Moreover, although the ferroelectric liquid crystal (FLC (Ferroelectricity Liquid Crystal)) mode or antiferroelectricity liquid crystal (AFLC (Antiferroelectric Liquid Crystal)) mode which the ferroelectricity discovered in the smectic liquid crystal phase with whenever [ order / higher than a pneumatic liquid crystal phase ] essentially shows the very high-speed response of microsecond extent, technical problems, such as shock resistance and the temperature characteristic, are not solved, and it has not resulted in utilization. [0006]

In addition, although a polarizing plate is unnecessary and a daylight display is possible, the polymer dispersed liquid crystal (PDLC (Polymer Diffuse Liquid Crystal)) mode to which dispersion and transparence are made to switch has technical problems, like driver voltage with the low contrast difference of dispersion and transparence is high, and is not put in practical use.

## [0007]

Each two or more pneumatic modes (liquid crystal display mode of a pneumatic (Nematic) liquid crystal phase) described above serve as means of displaying in which the liquid crystal phase of bulk carries out orientation change and which it takes out optically, and image quality does not become the same at all by the include angle to see and bearing to see. Moreover, in order to require the time amount of dozens – hundreds ms extent inevitably for the liquid crystal phase of bulk to answer, the further response[ high-speed ]-izing below several mm second is difficult. [0008]

In a nematic phase, the so-called long-distance order (long range order) a liquid crystal molecule carries out [ the long-distance order ] orientation over the whole bulk inside a cel by the self-stacking tendency which the liquid crystal molecule near a substrate interface carries out orientation, it serves as a cause, and the liquid crystal molecule itself has according to the orientation restraining force of a substrate interface exists. The orientation by such long-distance order requires time amount until the orientation restraining force by the self-stacking tendency of the liquid crystal molecule itself spreads to the whole bulk inside a cel. Moreover, the direction of orientation of a liquid crystal molecule is also restricted in the fixed direction. Therefore, as long as the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule by pneumatic mode (pneumatic liquid crystal display mode) is used, there is essentially a limitation in implementation with the high-speed responsibility which becomes indispensable in LCD-TV, and extensive angle-of-visibility nature.

### [0009]

On the other hand, although a display mode called FLC and AFLC which are in smectic liquid crystal mode can become the solution of high-speed responsibility and extensive angle-of-visibility nature, technical problems, such as shock resistance and the temperature characteristic, cannot be solved in essence.

### [0010]

On the other hand, the means of displaying by the electronic polarization using the secondary electro-optical effect is proposed to these display modes using rotation of the liquid crystal molecule of the bulk by electric-field impression. The electro-optical effect is the phenomenon in which the refractive index of the matter changes with external electric fields. As the electro-

optical effect, there are effectiveness that the refractive index of the matter is proportional to the 1st order of electric field, and effectiveness proportional to the 2nd order, and it is called the Pockels effect and the Kerr effect, respectively.

[0011]

The Kerr effect was discovered by J.Kerr (car) in 1875, and organic liquids, such as a nitrobenzene and a carbon disulfide, are known as an ingredient in which the Kerr effect is shown until now. These ingredients are used for high field strength measurement of the optical shutter of the above-mentioned high speed, a light modulation element, an optical deflection component, or a power cable etc., for example.

[0012]

Moreover, having a Kerr constant with a big liquid crystal ingredient is shown, and the light modulation element, the optical deflection component, and the liquid crystal compound in which the Kerr constant which basic examination is further performed towards the application to an optical integrated circuit, and exceeds 200 times of the above-mentioned nitrobenzene is shown are also reported.

[0013]

The application to the display of the Kerr effect is beginning to be considered in such a situation. When the Kerr effect is applied to a display, since the Kerr effect essentially shows the response characteristic of several several microseconds – mm second, it can expect implementation of a high-speed response display.

[0014]

By the way, since the refractive index of the matter is proportional to the 2nd order of field strength, the Kerr effect can expect a low-battery drive relatively as compared with the Pockels effect proportional to the 1st order of electric field. However, as compared with the liquid crystal display component which does not use the Kerr effect, driver voltage may become high.

Therefore, in order to apply the Kerr effect to a display device, it is necessary to reduce driver voltage.

[0015] <BR> By the patent reference 1, orientation processing is beforehand performed to the substrate front face, and the technique of making the condition that it is easy to discover the Kerr effect is proposed there.

[Patent reference 1] JP,2001-249363,A (open day 2001 year 9 month 14 day)

[Description of the Invention]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

[0016]

However, by the approach currently indicated by the patent reference 1, the range the Kerr effect becomes easy to discover is restricted near the substrate interface. That is, orientation only of the molecule near [ where orientation processing was performed ] the substrate interface is not carried out. Therefore, with this technique, the deer reduction of the driver voltage cannot be carried out only.

[0017]

Moreover, the orientation film which performed orientation processing on the substrate is applied to the patent reference 1, a big Kerr constant is expected, and it is indicated that low-battery-ization is realizable as a result. However, the effectiveness of low-battery-izing obtained by this approach is not enough on real use. Moreover, the temperature requirement which can perform the display which used the Kerr effect with the technique of the patent reference 1 is also narrow, and difficult to put in practical use as a display.

[0018]

This originates in making the liquid crystal layer drive in an isotropic phase (an isotropic phase and Isotropic phase).

[0019]

The liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the liquid crystal layer (dielectric matter layer) is making the conventional liquid crystal display drive in the condition which shows a nematic phase (Nematic phase). With the conventional liquid crystal display, the orientation film with which the liquid crystal layer performed orientation processing to the substrate interface beforehand in the

condition which shows a nematic phase serves as a cause, and the direction of orientation of the liquid crystal molecule on a substrate interface (a polar angle, azimuth) is specified. Furthermore, the stacking tendency of the liquid crystal molecule in this substrate interface spreads toward the interior of a cel according to the self-orientation capacity which the liquid crystal molecule itself has. Thereby, the whole liquid crystal layer of bulk switches, where orientation is carried out uniformly (the direction of orientation changes).
[0020]

On the other hand, being indicated by the patent reference 1 mainly impresses electric field in the isotropic phase which is a phase on a nematic phase, and it makes the refractive-index change (Kerr effect) proportional to the 2nd order of field strength discover. That is, if temperature is raised from the nematic phase, and it becomes more than a certain critical temperature (a Tni point, pneumatic-isotropic phase transition temperature), phase transition of the liquid crystal ingredient in the patent reference 1 will be carried out to an isotropic phase. And a liquid crystal ingredient impresses electric field to this liquid crystal ingredient, and makes the Kerr effect discover by the patent reference 1 in the condition which shows the isotropic phase.

[0021]

In the isotropic phase, like the usual liquid, it is larger than the force in which the factor (kinetic energy) of thermodynamic fluctuation acts between molecules, and the molecule is moving and rotating freely. Since the self-orientation capacity committed between liquid crystal molecules in an isotropic phase does not work, even if it performs orientation processing to an interface, it seldom gets across to the interior of a cel, and even if some low-battery-ization is realizable, it does not result in level utilizable as a display. Furthermore, the factor (kinetic energy) of the above-mentioned thermodynamic fluctuation will become remarkably large if temperature rises, and the electrical potential difference which the Kerr effect discovers rises remarkably. [0022]

Furthermore, when applying the molecule which has negative-mold liquid crystallinity by generating electric field in the direction of a substrate normal for the technique of the patent reference 1 to the display device which carries out orientation, there is a problem that bearing of the direction of a molecule major axis in a bulk field does not become settled in an one direction. That is, although a liquid crystal molecule tends to arrange in the direction of rubbing by electric-field impression near [ where rubbing processing was performed ] the substrate interface, in the bulk field distant from the substrate, bearing of the direction of a molecule major axis turns to all the directions of substrate side inboard. Even if polarization of a molecule arranges this, it is because polarization exists in the direction of a molecule minor axis in general. That is, even if polarization is carrying out orientation by electric-field impression, if a bulk field is seen from a transverse plane (the direction of a substrate normal), it will be a method of \*\* optically and will not contribute to an optical property. Therefore, even if it applies the technique of the patent reference 1 to this display device, the optical property obtained on the electrical potential difference of practical use level is only near the substrate, and unless the driver voltage easily exceeding practical use level is impressed, it cannot obtain an optical response in a bulk field.

[0023]

Moreover, although orientation bearing of a bulk field is decided almost identically to the direction of electric field when applying the molecule which has positive type liquid crystallinity for the technique of the patent reference 1 by the electric field of substrate side inboard to the display device which carries out orientation, by orientation processing, the field where orientation is low-battery-ized is only near the substrate interface, and cannot reduce driver voltage on practical use level too.

[0024]

The purpose shows the optical isotropy at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, it is the display device which optical anisotropy discovers to electrical-potential-difference impression, and this invention is invention made in view of the technical problem mentioned above, and it offers [ driver voltage is low and ] the display device which has the

high-speed response engine performance, and the display using it. [Means for Solving the Problem] [0025]

In the display device equipped with an electric—field impression means means to produce electric field, in the dielectric matter layer pinched by the substrate of the pair which counters, and the substrate of the above—mentioned pair in order that the display device concerning this invention may solve the above—mentioned technical problem, and the above—mentioned dielectric matter layer At the time of no electrical—potential—difference impressing, the optical isotropy is shown in the above—mentioned dielectric matter layer, and the liquid crystallinity matter which optical anisotropy discovers by impressing an electrical potential difference is included in it. The above—mentioned electric—field impression means It is characterized by producing the first electric field containing the line of electric force of a direction perpendicular to the above—mentioned substrate side, and the second electric field containing the line of electric force of a direction parallel to the above—mentioned substrate side.

[0026]

Thereby, an electric-field impression means produces electric field including the first electric field of the direction where line of electric force is perpendicular to the field of a substrate, and the second electric field of the direction where line of electric force is parallel to the field of a substrate, and makes the liquid crystallinity matter discover optical anisotropy by electric field including the first electric field and the second electric field.

[0027]

Therefore, impress an electrical potential difference lower than the case where one of the two above-mentioned electric fields exists, a dielectric matter layer is made to produce electric field, and it enables optical anisotropy to be discovered. Therefore, the display device which has the high-speed response engine performance is realizable by low-battery drive.

[0028]

Moreover, or the first electric field of the above serve as a cause and it promotes the manifestation of the optical anisotropy in the second electric field of the above, when the second electric field of the above serve as a cause and it promotes the manifestation of the optical anisotropy in the first electric field of the above, it becomes possible to make optical anisotropy discover by impressing a lower electrical potential difference.

[0029]

Moreover, the first electrode and the second electrode with which the above-mentioned electric-field impression means was formed in one substrate, By consisting of the third electrode formed in the substrate of another side, and impressing an electrical potential difference between the first electrode of the above, and the third electrode, and between the second electrode of the above, and the third electrode it is desirable to produce the first electric field of the above and to produce the second electric field of the above by impressing an electrical potential difference between the first electrode of the above and the second electrode. [0030]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, an optical anisotropy will be discovered with both the first electric field produced according to the potential difference between the first electrode and the third electrode and between the second electric field produced according to the potential difference between the first electrode and the second electric field produced according to the potential difference between the first electrode and the second electrode. Therefore, the display device which is a low battery and has the high-speed response engine performance is realizable.

[0031]

Moreover, as for the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode of the above, being arranged by turns is desirable so that it may have two or more parallel electrode pairs mutually, respectively and the above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the above-mentioned electrode pair in the second electrode of the above may become parallel mutually in the direction parallel to the substrate side of the above-mentioned substrate. [0032]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the first electrode and the second electrode are

arranged so that an electrode pair may become parallel mutually in the direction parallel to the substrate side of a substrate. Thereby, the second electric field which have uniform field strength between each electrode pair can be produced. Therefore, optical anisotropy can be made to discover by the low battery, without impressing a large electrical potential difference superfluously.

[0033]

Moreover, as for each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above, and the second electrode, it is desirable to consist of a configuration which extends in an one direction.

[0034]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, each electrode pair in the first electrode and the second electrode will have extended in the one direction. Since the second electric field which have the line of electric force of the same direction between electrode pairs arise by this, the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule which constitutes the liquid crystallinity matter can be made to carry out in the same direction by the second electric field. Therefore, it is possible to consider as the configuration which optical anisotropy discovers by the orientation of the above-mentioned molecule.

[0035]

Moreover, each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode may be seen from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal, and may have the zigzag configuration.

[0036]

If it is the above—mentioned configuration, each electrode pair in the first electrode and the second electrode sees from [ of a substrate side ] a normal, and has the zigzag configuration. Thereby, it sees from [ of a substrate side ] a normal and the first electric field and the second electric field can be formed in a zigzag configuration along with the zigzag configuration of each electrode pair. Therefore, optical anisotropy can be discovered in the different direction, and it can have two or more fields where the directions of optical anisotropy accomplish a zigzag configuration mutually, therefore — extensive — an angle of visibility display device is realizable.

## [0037]

Moreover, as for the third electrode of the above, it is desirable to have the potential of an average of the potential in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode of the above.

[0038]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, since it has average potential [ electrode / first electrode and / second ], the third electrode can produce the first electric field which have the field strength same between the first electrode and the third electrode and between the second electrode and the third electrode. Optical anisotropy can be made to discover efficiently, without this impressing a large electrical potential difference superfluously.

[0039]

Moreover, as for both the first electrode of the above and the second electrode, the third electrode, or one of the two, it is desirable that the substrate with which the first electrode and the second electrode were formed when it consisted of an electrode of transparence and the first electrode and the second electrode consisted of an electrode of transparence is transparent, and the substrate with which the third electrode was formed is transparent when the third electrode consists of an electrode of transparence.

[0040]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, since it will become possible to use the field of both fields which the field which the first electric field have produced and the second electric field in a dielectric matter layer have produced for a display, the display device which has a high numerical aperture is realizable.

[0041]

As for the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter, it is desirable that the dielectric constant

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of the direction of a minor axis of a molecule consists of a larger liquid crystal molecule than the dielectric constant of the direction of a major axis.

[0042]

The orientation of the direction of a minor axis of a molecule can be made to be able to carry out in the direction parallel to the first electric field and the second electric field, and optical anisotropy can be made to discover by the above-mentioned configuration also in the bulk field which is distant from a dielectric matter boundary side in orientation restraining force: [0043]

The above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter is liquid crystallinity matter which carries out phase transition to a nematic phase and an isotropic phase, and when the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter presents an isotropic phase, it is desirable that the optical isotropy at the time of no above-mentioned electrical-potential-difference impressing is shown. [0044]

Orientation restraining force can be made to act even on a bulk field by the first electric field and the second electric field in the small isotropic phase of the force which acts between molecules by the above-mentioned configuration. Moreover, since the Kerr effect to which the refractive index of a liquid crystal molecule is proportional to the 2nd order of field strength in an isotropic phase can be increased, a speed of response can essentially realize the display device which has the high-speed response engine performance using the quick Kerr effect. As for the molecule which constitutes the above-mentioned liquid crystallinity matter, it is desirable that have the order structure below optical wavelength at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, the above-mentioned order structure changes by impressing an electrical potential difference, and optical anisotropy is shown.

[0045]

The order structure of the liquid crystal molecule which constitutes the liquid crystallinity matter can be changed using the first electric field and the second electric field, and optical anisotropy can be made to discover by the above-mentioned configuration.

[0046]

moreover, the liquid crystal molecule of the liquid crystallinity matter contained in the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer between at least one side of the above-mentioned substrate, and the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — the orientation film which carries out orientation may be prepared in the perpendicular direction

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the orientation film promotes the optical anisotropy manifestation at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression further, and the display device which optical anisotropy discovers by the low battery can be realized. [0047]

moreover, the above-mentioned orientation film — the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — rubbing processing for making orientation carry out in the perpendicular direction may be performed. [0048]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule can be made to carry out in the same direction by the orientation film, the first electric field, and the second electric field by which rubbing processing was carried out. Thereby, the display device which optical anisotropy discovers is realizable by the low battery with the synergistic effect of the orientation film and electric field.

[0049]

moreover, the above-mentioned orientation film — the above-mentioned liquid crystal molecule — the first electric field of the above, and the second electric field — \*\* — many slots for carrying out orientation may be formed in the perpendicular direction.

[0050]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the display device which optical anisotropy discovers is realizable by the low battery with the first electric field of the above and the second electric field, and the orientation film with which many slots are formed.

# [0051]

Moreover, as for the slot of above-mentioned a large number, it is desirable to consist of a configuration which extends in the direction parallel to each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode.

## [0052]

Since bearing of the optical anisotropy manifestation by the micro groove and bearing of the optical anisotropy manifestation by the second electric field are in agreement when the component of the second electric—field impression means has a rectangular parallelepiped configuration if it is the above—mentioned configuration, optical anisotropy can be discovered by the low battery.

# [0053]

Moreover, when each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode sees from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal and has a zigzag configuration, as for the slot of above-mentioned a large number, it is desirable to see from [ of the above-mentioned substrate side ] a normal, and to consist of a configuration which extends at zigzag in the direction parallel to each above-mentioned electrode pair in the first electrode of the above and the second electrode.

# [0054]

When it is the above-mentioned configuration and the component of the electric-field impression means of the above second has a zigzag configuration, optical anisotropy can be discovered in the different direction, and it can have two or more fields where the directions of optical anisotropy accomplish a zigzag configuration mutually, therefore, a low battery — and — extensive — an angle of visibility display device is realizable.

# [0055]

Moreover, the orientation nominal member for making the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer promote the manifestation of the above-mentioned optical anisotropy may be formed. [0056]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, an orientation nominal member assists the optical anisotropy manifestation at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression further, and the display device which optical anisotropy discovers in a low battery and an extensive temperature requirement can be realized.

### [0057]

Moreover, as for the above-mentioned orientation nominal member, it is desirable to consist of a chain macromolecule ingredient, mesh-like polymeric materials, a porosity inorganic material, or a hydrogen bond object.

### [0058]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the optical anisotropy manifestation at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression is assisted, and an orientation nominal member with possible making it discovered in a low battery and an extensive temperature requirement can be formed appropriately.

## [0059]

Moreover, the chiral agent may be added by the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer. Or the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer may be chiral matter.

## [0060]

According to these configurations, the liquid crystal molecules which constitute the liquid crystallinity matter can be tied up by the chiral agent added by the dielectric matter layer, and orientation of each liquid crystal molecule can be carried out so that it is perpendicular to electric field, and the direction of a major axis may be missing from the electrode of another side from one electrode and may become spiral [ the direction of a major axis of each liquid crystal molecule ]. And optical anisotropy can be made to discover according to the rotatory polarization which met in the direction of the molecule major axis of light by this helical structure. Therefore, orientation of the liquid crystal molecule can be carried out by the low battery, without using the orientation film.

## [0061]

Moreover, as for the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the above-mentioned dielectric matter layer, a refractive index may change in proportion to the 2nd order of field strength. [0062]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, the refractive index of a liquid crystal molecule can exert the Kerr effect proportional to the 2nd order of field strength even on a bulk field by the first electric field and the second electric field. Therefore, a speed of response can essentially realize the display device which has the high-speed response engine performance using the quick Kerr effect.

Moreover, the display by this invention is characterized by providing one of the above-mentioned display devices.

[0063]

By considering as the above-mentioned configuration, the one section of a pixel or the display which has the above-mentioned liquid crystal device in 1 pixel is realized. Thereby, the indicating equipment with which it has the high-speed response engine performance by low-battery drive and with which the indicating equipment which displays images, such as television broadcasting, and video, DVD, a word processor, a personal computer, a cellular phone, etc. are equipped, flat-panel display (FPD (flat panel display)) television, etc. are realizable.

[Effect of the Invention]

[0064]

If it is the above-mentioned configuration, an electric-field impression means will produce electric field including the first electric field of the direction where line of electric force is perpendicular to the field of a substrate, and the second electric field of the direction where line of electric force is parallel to the field of a substrate, and will carry out orientation of the liquid crystal molecule which is presenting the isotropic phase by electric field including the first electric field and the second electric field.

[0065]

Therefore, impress an electrical potential difference lower than the case where one of the two above-mentioned electric fields exists, a dielectric matter layer is made to produce electric field, and it becomes possible to make a liquid crystal molecule discover optical anisotropy, moreover, responsibility improves a liquid crystal molecule orientation by the two above-mentioned electric fields — things can be carried out. Therefore, the display device which has the high-speed response engine performance is realizable by low-battery drive.

[0066]

Moreover, or the first electric field of the above serve as a cause and it promotes the manifestation of the optical anisotropy in the second electric field of the above, when the second electric field of the above serve as a cause and it promotes the manifestation of the optical anisotropy in the first electric field of the above, it becomes possible to make a liquid crystal molecule discover optical anisotropy by impressing a lower electrical potential difference.

[Best Mode of Carrying Out the Invention] [0067]

[The gestalt 1 of operation]

The gestalt of 1 operation of this invention is explained based on drawing. <u>Drawing 1</u> (a) is the sectional view having shown the outline configuration of the display device 100 concerning this operation gestalt. In addition, <u>drawing 1</u> (a) shows the condition that the electrical potential difference is not impressed.

[0068]

In addition, a display is equipped with a display device 100 with a drive circuit, a signal line, the scanning line, a switching element, etc. Moreover, a display device 100 displays by impressing electric field to the liquid crystal ingredient which is presenting the isotropic phase (isotropic phase), and making the refractive-index change (Kerr effect) proportional to the 2nd order of field strength discover.

[0069]

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The translucency substrates 6 and 7 with which a display device 100 counters as shown in this drawing (substrate). The ctenidium-like electrode 4 prepared in the opposed face with the translucency substrate 7 in the translucency substrate 6 (the first electrode, the second electrode). The orientation film 3 prepared so that the ctenidium-like electrode 4 might be covered to the above-mentioned opposed face of the translucency substrate 6. The plate-like electrode 5 prepared in the opposed face with the translucency substrate 6 in the translucency substrate 7 (the third electrode). The orientation film 3 prepared so that the plate-like electrode 5 might be covered to the above-mentioned opposed face of the translucency substrate 7. The opposed face with the substrate of another side in the translucency substrates 6 and 7 consists of polarizing plates (polarizing element) 8 and 9 prepared in the field of the opposite side, respectively, and a dielectric matter layer 1 formed between the translucency substrates 6-7 (between the orientation film 3-2).

The translucency glass substrates 6 and 7 consist of glass, for example, although it is a transparent substrate and especially the quality of the material is not limited to the light. [0071]

The negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient (negative-mold pneumatic liquid crystal ingredient) A is enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 as a liquid crystal molecule. Moreover, a display device 100 is made to produce the condition of not penetrating with the condition that light penetrates, in a display device 100 by the stacking tendency (optical anisotropy) of the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A produced by impressing electric field to this dielectric matter layer 1. Moreover, the thickness (cel thickness d) of the substrate side perpendicular direction in the dielectric matter layer 1 is 5 micrometers. [0072]

Drawing 8 is an explanatory view for explaining the dielectric constant epsilon and refractive index n of the liquid crystal molecule in the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A. As shown in this drawing, in the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A, the value of dielectric constant epsilon\*\* of the direction of a minor axis of a liquid crystal molecule is larger, and the value of delta epsilon=epsilon ||-epsilon\*\* becomes negative from the value of dielectric constant epsilon|| of the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule. That is, a negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient is a liquid crystal ingredient (liquid crystallinity matter in which the property of a negative mold is shown) which consists of a liquid crystal molecule which has a negative dielectric anisotropy.

[0073]

[0070]

Moreover, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A used with this operation gestalt mixes the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient of five kinds of ester systems shown below, and shows the physical properties of phase-transition-temperature Tni=62 degree C of deltan=0.15, deltaepsilon=-14, and a nematic phase (liquid crystal phase)-isotropic phase (isotropic phase). Here, deltan is the difference of the refractive index ne of the direction of a major axis, and the refractive index no of the direction of a minor axis. Moreover, Tni is nematic phase-isotropic phase transition temperature. In addition, pneumatic-isotropic phase transition temperature is temperature (critical temperature) which carries out phase transition from a nematic phase to an isotropic phase, when raising temperature from a nematic phase.

[Formula 1]

[Formula 2]

$$RO \longrightarrow COO \longrightarrow R$$

$$\begin{array}{c} [0078] \\ [Formula 5] \\ \hline \\ R \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ CN \\ \end{array}$$

[0079]

In addition, R and R' shows an alkyl chain among each above-mentioned chemical formula. [0080]

Thus, since the dielectric anisotropy has enclosed the negative negative-mold liquid crystal

ingredient A with the dielectric matter layer 1 with this operation gestalt, if electric field are impressed to the dielectric matter layer 1, the molecule major axis of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A will turn to a direction perpendicular to the direction of electric field. That is, the direction of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A (the direction of a molecule major axis) turns into a direction which intersects perpendicularly with electric field. [0081]

In addition, with a positive type liquid crystal ingredient with the smaller dielectric constant epsilon\*\* of the direction of a molecule minor axis (liquid crystal ingredient forward in a dielectric anisotropy), the direction of a molecule major axis turns to the direction of electric field contrary to the case of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A from dielectric constant epsilon|| of the direction of a molecule major axis. Although the reason using the liquid crystal ingredient of the negative mold instead of a positive type is explained to a detail below with this operation gestalt, it is both substrate side inboard electric field (the second electric field) and the direction electric field of a substrate normal (the first electric field), and is because the phase contrast (retardation) of light can be generated and an optical anisotropy can be made to discover. substrate side inboard electric field — a substrate side — \*\* — the electric field containing the line of electric force of an parallel direction (substrate side inboard) — it is — the direction electric field of a substrate normal — a substrate side — \*\* — they are the electric field containing the line of electric force of a perpendicular direction (the direction of a substrate normal).

# [0082]

A polarizing plate 8 and a polarizing plate 9 restrict vibration of a light wave in the predetermined direction. Thereby, while the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of the dielectric matter layer 1 is carrying out orientation in the predetermined direction, light penetrates a display device 100.

# [0083]

Before the orientation film 2 and 3 encloses the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A with the dielectric matter layer 1 between the orientation film 2 and the orientation film 3, rubbing processing is performed to the orientation film 2 and the orientation film 3, and it gives orientation restraining force to the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A near a substrate interface, and is made to carry out orientation in the fixed direction by this. In addition, by the display device 100, the polyimide which has a track record widely is used by the conventional pneumatic liquid crystal display device (mode) as the orientation film 2 and orientation film 3. [0084]

Drawing 2 shows the direction of rubbing given to the orientation film 2 and 3, and the absorption shaft orientation of polarizing plates 8 and 9. As shown in this drawing, the directions of rubbing of the orientation film 2 and 3 are anti-parallel (parallel and an opposite direction; antiparallelism) mutually, and are the direction (the direction of y) which intersects perpendicularly with the electric field impressed to the substrate side of both substrates with parallel and the ctenidium-like electrode 4. In addition, as shown in this drawing, with this operation gestalt, a direction parallel to the electric field to which Z is impressed to the substrate side of both substrates by the direction perpendicular to both substrates, and X is impressed with parallel and the ctenidium-like electrode 4, and Y shall point out the direction which intersects perpendicularly with the electric field impressed to the substrate side of both substrates with parallel and the ctenidium-like electrode 4.

### [0085]

Therefore, in <u>drawing 1</u> (a), the directions of rubbing of the orientation film 3 are parallel and a space perpendicular direction (it is the direction of +y at drawing system of coordinates) at the translucency substrate 6, and the directions of rubbing of the orientation film 2 are parallel and a space perpendicular direction (it is the direction of -y at drawing system of coordinates) at the translucency substrate 6.

### [0086]

Moreover, as shown in  $\frac{drawing 2}{drawing 2}$ , polarizing plates 8 and 9 are arranged at the cross Nicol's prism (the angle which a mutual absorption shaft makes is 90 degrees). Moreover, the direction

of rubbing given to the orientation film 2 and 3 and the absorption shaft orientations in polarizing plates 8 and 9 are arranged so that the include angle of 45 degrees may be made. [0087]

Therefore, when the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of a dark condition and the dielectric matter layer 1 which light does not penetrate when the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of the dielectric matter layer 1 shows the optical isotropy shows optical anisotropy, it will be in the bright state which light penetrates.

[0088]

To the dielectric matter layer 1, the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is a means to impress electric field in the direction of a substrate side (direction parallel to a substrate side), and the direction of a substrate normal (direction perpendicular to a substrate side), and ITO (stannic acid ghost (indium tin oxide)) which is a transparent electrode ingredient (it is a transparent electrode material to the light) is used for it as the metal membrane kind. As shown in drawing 1 (a), patterning is carried out to the shape of a stripe, and the ctenidium-like electrode 4 becomes so that the electrode section (electrode pair) of the shape of two or more ctenidium prolonged to a space perpendicular direction (the direction of y) may counter in the x directions mutually. [0089]

The top view at the time of seeing the ctenidium-like electrode 4 from a direction perpendicular to a substrate side to <u>drawing 3</u> is shown. As shown in this drawing, the ctenidium-like electrode 4 consists of ctenidium-like electrode 4a (the first electrode) and ctenidium-like electrode 4b (the second electrode) which have been arranged by turns in the shape of a stripe, and electric field are produced between two-electrodes 4a and 4b by giving the potential of reversed polarity to this ctenidium-like electrode 4a and ctenidium-like electrode 4b, respectively. [0090]

In addition, the cross section (cross section of a X-Z side) in each ctenidium-like electrode section is a rectangular parallelepiped configuration, the electrode width of face (width of face of x directions) L is 4 micrometers, and an electrode spacing (electrode spacing of x directions) S is 4 micrometers (refer to drawing 1 (a)).

[0091]

Moreover, the ctenidium-like electrode 4 functions also as a means to impress electric field in the direction of a substrate side normal. That is, in a display device 100, electric field are impressed among both substrates with the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5.

[0092]

In addition, the plate-like electrode 5 is formed in the front face by the side of the dielectric matter layer 1 in the translucency substrate 7 in the monotonous configuration. Moreover, the plate-like electrode 5 consists of ITO which is a transparent electrode ingredient like the ctenidium-like electrode 4.

[0093]

By the way, as shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (a), it sets in the condition (condition that electric field are impressed to neither substrate side inboard nor the direction of a substrate side normal) that the electrical potential difference is not impressed to the display device 100. The negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has turned to the direction where the direction of a molecule major axis is parallel to the direction of rubbing given to each orientation film according to the orientation restraining force produced by rubbing processing performed to the substrate sides 2 and 3 in the field near an interface with a substrate side (orientation film 2 and 3). That is, optical anisotropy is shown.

[0094]

On the other hand, in the bulk field inside a cel, to the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A, the factor of thermal motion is dominant and the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has turned to the completely random direction from the orientation restraining force (force regulated so that orientation of the molecule may be carried out) of rubbing processing. That is, the optical isotropy is shown. Here, the bulk field inside a cel is a field of the cel medium-rise section on the ctenidium-like electrode 4 which is separated from the orientation film 2 and the orientation film

3 of the dielectric matter layer 1 interior. [0095]

Here, the result of the experiment which investigates the optical property of a display device 100 and which went to accumulate is explained. First, before using a display device 100, the display device 100 was heated to the temperature (T=Tni +1) on 1K of the pneumatic-isotropic phase transition temperature (Tni) of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A, and it was kept warm at the temperature. At this temperature, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is presenting the isotropic phase. In an isotropic phase, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has like a liquid the factor (kinetic energy) of thermodynamic fluctuation larger than the force of acting between molecules. Therefore, in the field except the field near a substrate interface, the molecule is moving and rotating freely. [0096]

Next, as shown in <u>drawing 1</u> (b), the electrical potential difference was impressed from the external power. That is, +9V were given to either each electrode 4a or 4b of the ctenidium-like electrode 4, and the potential of 0V was given to the -9V plate-like electrode 5 on another side. That is, the potential difference (electrical potential difference) between 18V, the ctenidium-like electrode 4 (4a and 4b), and the plate-like electrode 5 of the potential difference between each electrode 4a and 4b of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 (electrical potential difference) is 9V. Thereby, field strength distribution can make a field (z-y flat surface) produce symmetrical electric field in the dielectric matter layer 1. [0097]

At this time, the direction electric field of a substrate normal arise in the dielectric matter layer 1 according to the potential difference of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5. Moreover, substrate side inboard electric field arise in the dielectric matter layer 1 according to the potential difference of ctenidium-like electrode 4a and ctenidium-like electrode 4b. Moreover, as field strength E|| of substrate side inboard, they are E\*\*=9 / 5= 1.8v/micrometer from the conditions shown above as field strength E\*\* of E||=18 / the 4= 4.5v [ micrometer ] /and the direction of a substrate normal. [0098]

By impressing electric field to the dielectric matter layer 1 as mentioned above, as shown in drawing 1 (b), the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A turns to and carries out orientation of the direction (space perpendicular direction) of y whose direction of a molecule major axis is a direction which intersects perpendicularly with electric field.

Since the transparent electrode is used as the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and a plate-like electrode 5, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A by moreover, the thing made to carry out orientation in the direction of y In the field of both each inter-electrode field (the field which has the die length of S, following S region) of the ctenidium-like electrode 4, and the field on each electrode of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 (the field which has the die length of L, following L field), it can consider as a light transmission condition (bright state).

In addition, in a display device 100, electric field are impressed to both substrate side inboard and the direction of a substrate normal as mentioned above at coincidence. In this case, since the field strength of substrate side inboard is stronger than the field strength of the direction of a substrate side normal, the Kerr effect arises first in the liquid crystal molecule between each electrode 4a and 4b of the ctenidium-like electrode 4, and the liquid crystal molecule of that field carries out orientation in the direction of y.

[0101]

Moreover, the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule by the Kerr effect is transmitted to the liquid crystal molecule in fields other than inter-electrode [ of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 / each ] by the intermolecular interaction to which you are going to make it carry out orientation of the adjoining liquid crystal molecule in this direction. [0102]

Furthermore, the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule by this intermolecular interaction

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serves as a trigger, and a liquid crystal molecule carries out orientation in the direction of y according to the orientation restraining force by the electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal to which the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is made to carry out in the direction of y. That is, the liquid crystal molecule of a bulk field carries out orientation according to the synergistic effect of two orientation restraining force by the electric field of an intermolecular interaction and the direction of a substrate side normal. The negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of the bulk field inside a cel turns to the direction of y. It is square, the bulk field inside a cel is a surrounded field in drawing 1 (b), and hatching has been performed to the liquid crystal molecule in this field in drawing 1 (b).

# [0103]

Next, quantum evaluation of the optical property in a display device 100 was performed by setting potential of the plate-like electrode 5 to 0V (GND), and making it change so that the potential of ctenidium electrode 4a and 4b which adjoins the potential of the ctenidium electrode 4 may maintain the condition that reversed polarity and an absolute value are equal. [0104]

Consequently, the electrical potential difference Vmax between the ctenidium electrodes 4.4 with which optical anisotropy is discovered according to applied voltage, and light will penetrate under a polarizing plate cross Nicol's prism, it will be in bright state, and this brightness becomes max to the beginning was 21V.

[0105]

Next, for the comparison, except not forming the plate-like electrode 5 in the translucency substrate 7 side, the display device 100 and the display device 101 (refer to <u>drawing 10</u>) created similarly were prepared, and quantum evaluation of the optical property was performed. [0106]

Vmax was 49V when the potential in the ctenidium electrode 4-4 which adjoins the electrical potential difference impressed between the ctenidium electrodes 4.4 in a display device 101 measured the ctenidium inter-electrode electrical potential difference Vmax from which it is made to change so that reversed polarity and an absolute value may become equal, and brightness becomes max to the beginning. That is, it doubled [more than] compared with the display device 100.

[0107]

Here, the following things are mentioned as a reason a display device 101 has twice [ more than ] as many Vmax as a display device 100. Namely, in a display device 101, since it does not have the plate-like electrode 5 even if it impresses an electrical potential difference between the ctenidium-like electrodes 4.4, in the bulk field inside a cel, electric field do not arise in the direction of a substrate normal. For this reason, as shown in <u>drawing 10</u>, orientation bearing of the liquid crystal molecule in a bulk field does not become settled, but most fields on the ctenidium electrode 4 show the optical isotropy. That is, this field is still a dark condition and it is only each inter-electrode substrate side inboard electric field of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 which are contributed to the manifestation of optical anisotropy, and in order to make brightness result in max, as compared with a display device 100, a twice [ about / more than ] as many electrical potential difference as this will be required. [0108]

Furthermore, for the comparison, as shown in <u>drawing 11</u>, the display device 102 with a display device 100 which has only a plate-like electrode was prepared for the both sides of the translucency substrate 6 and the translucency substrate 7, and quantum evaluation of the optical property was given to them. In addition, the display device 102 was replaced with the ctenidium-like electrode 4 in a display device 100, and was formed like the display device 100 except having formed the plate-like electrode 5 on the translucency substrate 6. [0109]

Vmax was 62V when the electrical potential difference Vmax between the plate-like electrodes 5.5 with which the electrical potential difference impressed between the plate-like electrodes 5.5 in both the substrates 6 and 7 of a display device 102 is changed, and brightness becomes max

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to the beginning was measured. That is, compared with the display device 100, it became about 3 times.

[0110]

The following things are mentioned as a reason from which Vmax in a display device 102 became about 3 times of a display device 100 here.

[0111]

In a display device 102, since it has only the plate-like electrode 5 formed in both the substrates 6 and 7 and does not have the ctenidium-like electrode 4, only the electric field of the direction of a substrate normal can be impressed. Since rubbing processing has been performed to the orientation film 2 and the orientation film 3, the liquid crystal molecule near the interface of the orientation film 2 and the orientation film 3 has turned to the direction of rubbing given to the orientation film 2 and 3 at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing. And if electric field are impressed in this condition, in response to the effect of orientation restraining force [ / near / this / the interface ], the liquid crystallinity matter of the bulk field inside a cel will also turn to the space perpendicular direction (the direction of y) which is the direction same to some extent as the direction of rubbing given to the orientation film 2 and 3.

[0112]

However, it is not so large as the force to which orientation of the liquid crystal molecule of a bulk field is carried out under the effect of this rubbing processing overcomes the thermal—motion energy in an isotropic phase and it makes it suitable in the direction of y enough. For this reason, in order to make the liquid crystal molecule in a bulk field fully turn to in the direction of y, a still larger electrical potential difference must be impressed, and Vmax goes up and becomes about 3 times compared with a display device 100.

[0113]

Therefore, when the electric field of the same field strength are impressed to a display device 100, a display device 101, and a display device 102, the liquid crystal molecule in a display device 100 is assembling and carrying out orientation in the direction of y most, therefore the permeability of the light in a display device 100 becomes the highest so that clearly also from the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule in each display device shown in drawing 1 (b), drawing 10, and drawing 11.

[0114]

as mentioned above, in the display device 100 concerning this operation gestalt The ctenidium-like electrode 4 which impresses electric field to the substrate side inboard in the translucency substrate 6, Prepared for the translucency substrate 7 which counters the translucency substrate 6, and it has the plate-like electrode 5 which impresses the electric field of the direction of both the substrates normal between the ctenidium-like electrodes 4 in the translucency substrate 6. The electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal and substrate side inboard are impressed to the dielectric matter layer 1 with which the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A was enclosed by this.

[0115]

Thereby, the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule in this field can be made to carry out in the direction (the direction of y) perpendicular to electric field by the electric field which act on the field between the ctenidium-like electrodes 4.4. Moreover, the effectiveness in which the liquid crystal molecule in the bulk field which adjoins when the liquid crystal molecule in this field carries out orientation carries out orientation by the intermolecular interaction, and the effectiveness the liquid crystal molecule of a bulk field carries out [ effectiveness ] orientation by the electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal where it acts between the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5 can act in multiplication, and can make the orientation of the liquid-crystal molecule of a bulk field carry out in the direction of y in 10 minutes.

[0116]

For this reason, in a display device 100, driver voltage required in order to obtain the maximum permeability can be stopped low.

[0117]

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In addition, in the operation gestalt 1, rubbing processing has been performed on the orientation film 2 of the vertical substrates 6 and 7, and 3. For this reason, when the electric field of the direction of a substrate normal are impressed like <u>drawing 1</u> (b), there is force to which the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule on the ctenidium electrode 4 is made to carry out in the direction of y to some extent to some extent in response to the fact that the effect of an orientation film interface by which rubbing was carried out. However, it is square at <u>drawing 1</u> (b), and is surrounded, and the force of making it fully suitable in the direction of y does not have the liquid crystal molecule to which hatching was performed. Nevertheless, in a display device 100, it is because the molecular orientation between the substrate side inboard electric—field sections 4.4, i.e., a ctenidium electrode, is acting greatly to the last that the orientation even of the liquid crystal molecule of the cel medium—rise section was able to be made to carry out in the direction of y enough.

[0118]

Moreover, in a display device 100, as mentioned above, while the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has carried out [ the liquid crystal phase ] orientation in the direction of y in an isotropic phase also in the bulk field inside a cel, the elastic self-stacking tendency of a liquid crystal molecule which is seen with a pneumatic liquid crystal phase actualizes, and is imagined to be what carries out orientation of one layer of ctenidium electrode top nearby, and the liquid crystal molecule in the direction of y. As for this, the electrode width of face L and an electrode spacing S are very as narrow as 4 micrometers, and it is imagined as extent which is also among an isotropic phase, and the thing which the intermolecular interaction is committing in the field of size of this level.

[0119]

[The gestalt 2 of operation]

Next, other operation gestalten of this invention are explained based on drawing. In addition, the sign same about the member which has the configuration same for convenience and function same for convenience as the display device 100 concerning the operation gestalt 1 of explanation is attached, and the explanation is omitted. Drawing 4 (a) – (d) is the sectional view showing the outline configuration of the display device 200 concerning this operation gestalt, and is a sectional view which works between the ctenidium electrodes 4.4 and which was seen from the direction of the electric field within a substrate side (x directions). That is, drawing 1 (a) used for explanation of a display device 100 in the operation gestalt 1 and drawing 1 (b) are drawings seen from parallel and a direction different 90 degrees to both the substrates side.

Moreover, <u>drawing 4</u> (a) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule by the micro groove at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, where the nematic phase when not forming a giant-molecule chain is presented. <u>Drawing 4</u> (b) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule in the condition of having presented the nematic phase at the time of forming a giant-molecule chain. <u>Drawing 4</u> (c) shows the orientation condition of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, where an isotropic phase is presented, and <u>drawing 4</u> (d) shows the orientation condition of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression in the condition of having presented the isotropic phase.

[0121]

As shown in <u>drawing 4</u> (b), as for the electrode, on one substrate (translucency substrate 6), the plate-like electrode 5 is formed on the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the substrate (translucency substrate 7) of another side like the display device 100 which a display device 200 requires for the operation gestalt 1.

[0122]

The cel thickness d of the electrode width of face (ctenidium electrode width of face) L of the ctenidium—like electrode 4, an electrode spacing (ctenidium electrode spacing) S, and the dielectric matter layer 1 is the same as that of the operation gestalt 1. Namely, last shipment = They are 4 micrometers / 4 micrometers, and d= 5 micrometers. Moreover, it is ITO altogether like [ electrode material / of the ctenidium—like electrode 4 and the plate—like electrode 5 ] the

operation gestalt 1.

[0123]

Moreover, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A (deltan=0.15, deltaepsilon=-14, Tni=62 degree C) which consists of the same presentation as a display device 100 is enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1. Since the nematic phase-isotropic phase phase transition temperature Tni of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is 62 degrees C, a room temperature (for example, about 30 degrees C) shows a nematic phase. That is, drawing 4 (b) is the sectional view showing the condition of the display device 200 at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in the condition which shows the nematic phase.

[0124] 
On the other hand, the points that a display device 200 is different from a display device 100 are the point that replace with the orientation film 2 and 3 (orientation nominal member which consists of polyimide and to which rubbing processing was performed) in a display device 100.

and the micro grooves 14 and 15 are form, and a point that the macromolecule chain 22 is form in the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1, as

showed in <u>drawing 4</u> (b).

[0125]

The slot which extends in the direction (the direction of y) which showed the micro grooves 14 and 15 in <u>drawing 4</u> (b) and which has the micro depth and a micro (it is minute (1 micrometer or less)) pitch is formed. In addition, the micro grooves 14 and 15 give the orientation restraining force to the direction of a micro groove (the extension direction of a slot, the direction of y) to the liquid crystal molecule near a substrate interface.

[0126]

By irradiating ultraviolet rays (light) to the photopolymerization nature monomer added when enclosing the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A, the polymerization of the macromolecule chain 22 is carried out, and it forms a chain macromolecule (macromolecule chain). As shown in drawing 4 (b), as for the macromolecule chain 22, the amount of the principal part has extended in the extension direction (the direction of y) of the my KURUGU loop formations 14 and 15. In addition, the formation approach of the macromolecule chain 22 is explained in detail later. [0127]

Here, the formation approach of the micro grooves 14 and 15 is explained. The micro grooves 14 and 15 are produced through the photolithography process of exposing and developing a photopolymer like a photoresist, the stamp method (carrying out die pressing law), a mask UV exposure process, etc.

[0128]

Moreover, although the micro grooves 14 and 15 show the configuration currently formed on the ctenidium-like electrode 4 or the plate-like electrode 5 with this operation gestalt, it is not limited to this configuration. The micro grooves 14 and 15 may be first formed on the translucency substrates 6 and 7, and the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5 may be formed on it. In this case, since the electrolyte thickness was smaller compared with the irregularity of a micro groove even if the electrode existed on the micro groove layer, it checked that the slot of a micro groove had sufficient effectiveness to be maintained also on an electrode and carry out orientation of the liquid crystal molecule in an isotropic phase. [0129]

<u>Drawing 9</u> is the sectional view showing the micro groove 15 formed on the translucency substrate 6 with which the ctenidium-like electrode 4 was formed. In addition, this drawing is a sectional view seen from the direction (the direction of y) perpendicular to the direction of the electric field within a substrate side, and the becoming direction, when the direction 200 perpendicular to the extension direction of ctenidium-like electrode 4a and 4b, i.e., a display device, is formed. Moreover, <u>drawing 9</u> shows not only when the direction of the micro groove 15 is one direction (the direction of y) but the cross-section configuration mentioned later in case the micro groove 15 has a zigzag configuration.

As shown in this drawing, if the micro groove 15 has many micro height (inside of drawing,

deltam) and pitches (inside of drawing, I (EI)) which project from the translucency substrate 6 side, it will consist of a lobe (micro crest) (micro slot of a large number which have the micro depth and a micro pitch).

[0131]

In addition, it consists of many micro slots (or micro crest) similarly about the micro groove 14 formed on the translucency substrate 7 (on the plate-like electrode 5).
[0132]

Drawing 4 (a) is the sectional view showing the condition of having made the translucency substrates 5 and 6 which formed the micro grooves 14 and 15 as mentioned above countering, and having enclosed the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A with the dielectric matter layer 1 which is a field between both substrates. In addition, this drawing shows the condition in a room temperature, therefore the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is presenting the nematic phase. As shown in this drawing, the orientation restraining force by the micro grooves 14 and 15 acts on a liquid crystal molecule, and orientation of the liquid crystal molecule in the dielectric matter layer 1 is carried out in the direction of a micro groove (the direction of a slot of a micro groove) in the condition which shows a nematic phase.

[0133]

In addition, when investigated about the pitch I of the lobe in the micro groove 14 and the micro groove 15 to which orientation of the liquid crystal molecule is carried out, and height deltam, in the display device 200 concerning this operation gestalt, 0.8 micrometers and height deltam of the pitch I were 0.3 micrometers. The orientation of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of a nematic phase (T<Tni) can be made to fully carry out in the direction of a micro slot by forming the micro groove of such a scale.

[0134]

Next, the formation approach of the macromolecule chain 22 is explained. In case the negative—mold liquid crystal ingredient A is enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1, a photopolymerization nature monomer (polymerization nature compound) (not shown) is added into the negative—mold liquid crystal ingredient A. In addition, in addition to a photopolymerization nature monomer, the polymerization initiator (not shown) for making polymerizations of a photopolymerization nature monomer, such as methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, perform quickly may be added further.

[0135]

thus — temperature (condition that the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is presenting the pneumatic liquid crystal phase) with the dielectric matter layer 1 lower than pneumatic—isotropic phase transition temperature (Tni) which enclosed the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A which added the photopolymerization nature monomer — the condition of drawing 4 (a) — the same — the dielectric matter layer 1 — in the whole region, the liquid crystal molecule is carrying out orientation to the one direction (the direction of a micro groove) mostly.

### [0136]

Next, ultraviolet rays are irradiated at the dielectric matter layer 1, holding the temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 to temperature lower than pneumatic—isotropic phase transition temperature (Tni). Thereby, as shown in <u>drawing 4</u> (b), a photopolymerization nature monomer carries out a polymerization and the macromolecule chain 22 (orientation nominal member) (part in which the photopolymerization nature monomer carried out the polymerization) is formed. [0137]

Here, the giant-molecule chain 22 is fixed so that a direction parallel to the direction of orientation of a liquid crystal molecule (the direction of the micro groove 14 and the micro groove 15) on the average may be turned to. This carries out photopolymerization of the photopolymerization nature monomer in the state of 1 shaft orientation of a pneumatic liquid crystal phase (condition in which the liquid crystal molecule is carrying out orientation to the one direction), and is because the macromolecule network (polymer) was formed.

Next, the actuation in a display device 200 is explained. In case a display device 200 is used, the

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temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 is raised to temperature (T=Tni +2) as high than pneumatic-isotropic phase transition temperature (Tni) as Number K, and the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 uses in the condition which shows an isotropic phase (isotropic phase).

[0139]

<u>Drawing 4</u> (c) is the sectional view in the condition (at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing) of making temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 into Tni+2(degree-C), and not impressing the electrical potential difference to each electrode which met in the direction of the micro grooves 14 and 15.

[0140]

As shown in this drawing, thermal-motion energy becomes dominant (between macromolecule chain 22 comrades), and the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A presents an isotropic phase condition, after having been surrounded by the macromolecule chain 22 which is suitable in the direction of a micro groove at abbreviation parallel. Even if the macromolecule chain 22 exists, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of the interior surrounded by it has turned to the completely random direction by the thermal-motion-factor, and when this is seen on a macro, it shows that the optical isotropy is presented. In addition, the display device 200 is in the dark (black) condition in this condition. Moreover, since spacing of macromolecule chain 22 comrades surrounding the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is below light wavelength, even if dispersion takes place, it will be uninfluential to the light of light wavelength order. Therefore, the dielectric matter layer 1 of a display device 200 will not be in the condition that it is cloudy with dispersion, on viewing.

[0141]

Where such an isotropic phase condition is maintained, an electrical potential difference is impressed to each electrode (between ctenidium-like electrode 4a and 4b and between the ctenidium-like electrode 4-plate-like electrodes 5). That is, the potential of +V or -V is impressed to each electrode of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 formed on the translucency substrate 6, and the potential of 0V (GND) is impressed to the plate-like electrode 5 on the translucency substrate 7 by the side of opposite.

[0142]

the molecular orientation restraining force according [ the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A ] to the micro grooves 14 and 15 when an electrical potential difference is impressed as mentioned above, as it is shown in <u>drawing 4</u> (d) — in addition, the molecular orientation restraining force of macromolecule chain 22 grade — the dielectric matter layer 1 — mostly, in the whole region, a liquid crystal molecule carries out orientation in the direction of the micro grooves 14 and 15 and the macromolecule chain 22 (the direction of the phase contrast within a substrate side, the direction of a lagging axis), and optical anisotropy is shown.

as mentioned above, the direction of orientation of a liquid crystal molecule [ in / by adding the photopolymerization nature monomer described above into the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1, and carrying out the polymerization of this photopolymerization nature monomer, after the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has carried out orientation to the one direction (the direction of the micro grooves 14 and 15) / this condition ] and abbreviation — the macromolecule chain 22 prolonged in the parallel direction can be formed.

[0144]

and the orientation restraining force according to the micro grooves 14 and 15 by impressing an electrical potential difference to each electrode in the display device 200 which formed the macromolecule chain 22 in this way in the condition that the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A shows an isotropic phase — in addition, the molecular orientation restraining force of macromolecule chain 22 grade — the dielectric matter layer 1 — in the whole region, orientation of the liquid crystal molecule can be carried out mostly.

[0145]

Thereby, compared with the case where the macromolecule chain 22 is not formed, driver voltage which makes brightness in a display device 200 max can be made low.

[0146]

In addition, with this operation gestalt, as a means for giving orientation restraining force to the liquid crystal molecule near a substrate interface, although the micro grooves 14 and 15 are used, it does not restrict to this. For example, it replaces with the micro grooves 13 and 15, and the same effectiveness as a display device 200 and abbreviation described above even if it used the orientation film which performed rubbing processing like the operation gestalt 1 is acquired. [0147]

Moreover, in the configuration 100 which does not form the macromolecule chain 22 in a display device 200, i.e., the display device concerning the operation gestalt 1, it is good only also as a configuration which replaced the orientation film 2 and 3 with the micro grooves 14 and 15, and the same effectiveness as a display device 100 and abbreviation is done so in this case. [0148]

Moreover, although the above-mentioned explanation explained the case where the direction of the micro grooves 14 and 15 was one direction (the direction of y), the direction of a micro groove is not restricted to this. For example, as shown in <u>drawing 5</u> -7, it is good also as a zigzag configuration.

[0149]

<u>Drawing 5</u> shows an example of the direction of the micro grooves 14 and 15 at the time of forming the micro grooves 14 and 15 in a zigzag configuration, and the absorption shaft orientations of polarizing plates 9 and 10. As shown in this drawing, the absorption shaft of a polarizing plate 9 and a polarizing plate 8 is considered as the arrangement (cross Nicol's prism) which intersects perpendicularly mutually, and the direction of the micro groove 14 and the micro groove 15 accomplishes the include angle of 45 degrees with the absorption shaft of a polarizing plate 9 and a polarizing plate 8, respectively while being zigzag. Moreover, the direction of the micro groove in the micro groove 14 is the direction of a micro groove and abbreviation parallel in the micro groove 15 in the location which counters.

<u>Drawing 6</u> is the top view showing the configuration of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 (ctenidium-like electrodes 4a and 4b) formed on the translucency substrate 6. As shown in this drawing, the ctenidium-like electrode 4 of a display device 200 has become zigzag-like like the micro groove 14 and the micro groove 15.

Drawing 9 is the sectional view showing the micro groove 15 formed on the translucency substrate 6 with which the ctenidium-like electrode 4 was formed. Moreover, it is a sectional view in the location shown by the line of C-C' in drawing 5 in this case. As shown in this drawing, the extension direction of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is the direction of the micro groove 15 and abbreviation parallel which are formed on it.

[0152]

<u>Drawing 7</u> (a) is the fluoroscopy sectional view in the condition at the time of OFF which is not impressing electric field to each inter-electrode one in a display device 200 (at the time of no electric-field impressing) showing the orientation condition of a liquid crystal molecule typically. Moreover, <u>drawing 7</u> (b) is the fluoroscopy sectional view showing typically the condition at the time of ON which impressed electric field to each inter-electrode one in a display device 200 (at the time of electric-field impression).

[0153] As shown in drawing 7 (a), at the time of OFF, the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is arranged by thermal motion in a completely random location and a completely random direction. Namely, as for the index ellipsoid which the whole negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A contained in the dielectric matter layer 1 makes, the refractive indexes nx and ny of the direction of a minor axis and the refractive index nz of the direction of a major axis become equal (refractive-index nx=ny=nz), and, as for the dielectric matter layer 1, the optical isotropy is shown.

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# [0154]

On the other hand, as shown in <u>drawing 7</u> (b), orientation is carried out in the direction in which the direction of electric field and a molecule cross at right angles according to the orientation restraining force of the liquid crystal molecule near [ by the micro groove ] a substrate interface, and the electric field by electric field and the molecular orientation restraining force to the direction which goes direct at the time of ON.

That is, such two molecular orientation restraining force (factor) acts so that both may make the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A turn to in the exactly same direction (the direction of a micro groove, the electric-field rectangular cross direction). Therefore, it can be joined to the molecular orientation restraining force by the micro groove, and the orientation of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A can be made to carry out in the direction of a micro groove on a lower electrical potential difference more efficiently that is,. The refractive index nb of the direction of a minor axis becomes smaller than the refractive index na of the direction of a major axis (na>nb), and optical anisotropy discovers the index ellipsoid which the whole negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A contained in the dielectric matter layer 1 makes by this in the dielectric matter layer 1.

[0156]

Thus, the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule can be made to carry out in the direction which is parallel to a substrate side and is different by forming the micro grooves 14 and 15 and the ctenidium-like electrode 4 in the shape of zigzag. since multi-domain-ization is realizable in simple by this — a display device 200 — extensive — an angle of visibility vision property (wide-field-of-view angle property) is realizable. That is, although the display device 200 essentially has the wide-field-of-view angle engine performance in order to make phase contrast discover in a substrate side like IPS mode, it can raise more the wide-field-of-view angle engine performance by using a micro groove. Moreover, unlike the rubbing method, since it is easy, forming a micro groove in zigzag can realize multi-domain-ization in simple. [0157]

In addition, although forming the ctenidium-like electrode 4 in the shape of a stripe does not have a property top problem, in case [ of a real panel ] it applies, in order to realize wide-field-of-view angle property-ization, it is desirable to form the ctenidium-like electrode 4 in the shape of zigzag.

Next, the result of having investigated the optical property in a display device 200 is explained. In addition, as shown in drawing 5 - drawing 7, the display device 200 in which zigzag-like the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the micro grooves 14 and 15 were formed was used here. Moreover, it is the temperature T higher [ about several K ] than the pneumatic-isotropic phase transition temperature Tni (here) about the temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 like [ search procedure ] the gestalt 1 of operation. While maintaining at T=Tni +2 (K), the electrical potential difference of the plate-like electrode 5 formed on the translucency substrate 7 was kept at 0V, and electrode 4a and 4b which the ctenidium-like electrode 4 formed on the translucency substrate 6 adjoins changed the electrical potential difference of ctenidium-like electrode 4a and 4b so that it might have an electrical potential difference with reverse positive/negative in the same absolute value. In this case, the electrical potential difference Vmax between ctenidium-like electrode 4a-4b in case a display device 200 will be in bright state and that brightness serves as max was 34V. [0159]

Next, evaluation about an electrical potential difference Vmax was performed about the display device for a comparison (it is a negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A independent system) with the above-mentioned display device 200 by which does not add a photopolymerization nature monomer in the dielectric matter layer 1 for a comparison, and macromolecule stabilization is not carried out. In addition, this display device for a comparison is formed like the display device 200 except macromolecule stabilization not being carried out. [0160]

In this display device for a comparison, when it was made to change like the display device 200 which maintained the temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 at Tni+2(K), and described the potential of each electrode above, the electrical potential difference Vmax between ctenidium-like electrode 4a and 4b in case brightness serves as max was 110V.
[0161]

about [ when having not carried out macromolecule stabilization from the above-mentioned evaluation result, when macromolecule stabilization of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is carried out (when the macromolecule chain 22 being formed) ] — it turns out by one third of driver voltages that brightness is made to max.

[0162]

Next, in the display device 200 which formed zigzag-like the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the micro grooves 14 and 15 as shown in <u>drawing 5</u> - <u>drawing 7</u>, it evaluated about the effect of temperature to the driver voltage which makes brightness max. a display device 200 — a Tni point — 30K — it was 39V, when the electrical potential difference was impressed like the above and Vmax was measured, while holding to high temperature (T=Tni +30). That is, a display device 200 can make temperature dependence of driver voltage a flat mostly in a large temperature requirement (temperature \*\*\*\* 30K) called Tni+2<T<Tni +30. Therefore, permeability serves as max by the low driver voltage [ say / 40V less than ] which becomes fully utilizable.

[0163]

that is, — if macromolecule stabilization is performed like a display device 200 — temperature — about 30 from right above [ Tni ] — the effect of the wall of the macromolecule chain 22 (the anchoring effectiveness with a wall) can be made to act also in temperature high [ about K ] Therefore, it becomes possible to make optical anisotropy discover, without being able to use the interaction based on the self-stacking tendency of molecules, and raising driver voltage not much about the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of the size of spacing (macromolecule chain 22 interior) extent of macromolecule chain 22 comrades.

[0164]

Thus, in a display device 200, the effectiveness of the micro groove of (1) substrate interface, the effectiveness of (2) substrate side inboard electric field and the direction electric field of a substrate normal, and three effectiveness of effectiveness \*\* by the wall surface of the macromolecule chain 22 which is suitable in the direction of (3) micro groove bring about the synergistic effect, respectively, and carry out orientation of the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A efficiently.

[0165]

Moreover, the micro grooves 14 and 15 in a display device 200 have a zigzag configuration, and the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is formed in abbreviation parallel at the micro groove 14. Thereby, winning by taking two half-points [ winning by taking two half-points of the micro groove 15 on a substrate interface, and the direction of electric field ], i.e., when the micro groove 15 and the electric field which act among ctenidium-like electrode 4a-4b make the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A carry out in the same direction, it becomes possible at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression to make the orientation of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A carry out towards desired by the low battery further.

[0166]

moreover, the thing which use a micro groove as an orientation nominal member of the liquid crystallinity matter, and the direction of a stripe and the direction of a micro groove of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 which are a substrate side inboard electric-field impression means are made in agreement, and is done for the macromolecule stabilizing treatment of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A — the liquid-crystallinity matter — the display device which can drive in the low battery and the extensive temperature requirement which cannot be realized if independent, and has high permeability and a wide-field-of-view angle property is realizable. [0167]

Moreover, although the macromolecule chain 22 was used as an orientation nominal member

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formed in the dielectric matter layer 1 with this operation gestalt, the configuration of an orientation nominal member is not restricted to this. For example, the liquid crystal (meta) acrylate of the others which have a liquid crystal frame and a polymerization nature functional group in intramolecular, epoxy acrylate, etc. may be used.

[0168]

Moreover, the polymerization nature compound added to a medium in order to form an orientation nominal member may be a polymerization nature monomer which carries out a polymerization not only by the photopolymerization nature monomer which carries out a polymerization by optical exposure but by approaches other than an optical exposure. [0169] ~

Moreover, when using which the above-mentioned polymerization nature compound, adjusting suitably is desirable [ the addition of a polymerization nature compound ] so that the rate of the electric field which can fully demonstrate the function as an orientation nominal member, and are impressed to an orientation nominal member may become large and driver voltage may not increase.

[0170]

Moreover, the configurations of an orientation nominal member may be a mesh-like macromolecule (mesh-like polymeric materials), an annular macromolecule (annular polymeric materials), etc. that what is necessary is just what can assist that a molecule carries out orientation not only by the macromolecule chain but by electrical-potential-difference impression (promotion).

[0171]

Moreover, it is not necessary to necessarily form an orientation nominal member from a polymerization nature compound. For example, a porosity inorganic material may be used as an orientation nominal member. What is necessary is just to add to the medium (dielectric liquid) which encloses sol gel ingredients (porosity inorganic material), such as barium titanate, with the dielectric matter layer 1 in this case beforehand. Effectiveness equivalent to the case where this uses with the orientation nominal member which consists of a macromolecule chain 22 (polymerization nature compound) can be acquired.

[0172]

Moreover, a hydrogen bond network (hydrogen bond object) can also be used as an orientation nominal member formed in the dielectric matter layer 1. Here, a hydrogen bond network means the combination formed not of a chemical bond but of hydrogen bond. [0173]

Moreover, with the gestalt of this operation, although the polymerization initiator is added, even if it is the case where an orientation nominal member is formed from a polymerization nature compound, it is not necessary to necessarily add a polymerization initiator. However, in order to carry out the polymerization of the polymerization nature compound with light or heat and to macromolecule—ize it, it is desirable to add a polymerization initiator. A polymerization can be quickly performed by adding a polymerization initiator. In addition, as for the addition of a polymerization initiator, it is desirable to adjust suitably so that a polymerization initiator may act as an impurity and the specific resistance of a display device may not fall.

[0174]

In addition, in investigation of the optical property of the above-mentioned display device 200, although investigated only about the case of Tni+30, also when it is further made an elevated temperature, it is thought that the driver voltage for obtaining the maximum permeability does not change a lot. For example, if the driver voltage for obtaining the maximum permeability in the temperature requirement to Tni+60(K) does not change a lot, in temperature width-of-face 60K, temperature dependence of driver voltage can be mostly made into a flat, and it is desirable practically. If it puts in another way, it is desirable to use the liquid crystallinity matter from which the driver voltage for obtaining the maximum permeability in the temperature requirement to Tni+60(K) as liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 does not change a lot.

[0175]

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In addition, in the above, it considered as the configuration to which the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule is made to carry out in the direction perpendicular to substrate side inboard electric field and the direction electric field of a substrate normal using the giant-molecule chain and the micro groove. However, it is good also as a configuration to which the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule is made to carry out in the direction perpendicular to substrate side inboard electric field and the direction electric field of a substrate normal only using the macromolecule chain instead of what is limited to this. Or you may make it make the orientation of the liquid crystal molecule carry out in the direction perpendicular to substrate side inboard electric field and the direction electric field of a substrate normal only using a micro groove.

[0176]

[The gestalt 3 of operation]

The display device 300 concerning the operation gestalt of further others of this invention is explained. In addition, the sign same about the member which has the configuration same for convenience and function same for convenience as the display device 100 concerning the operation gestalt 1 of explanation is attached, and the explanation is omitted.

[0177]

As shown in drawing 12 (b), on one substrate (translucency substrate 6), the plate-like electrode 5 is formed on the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the substrate (translucency substrate 7) of another side like the display device 100 which a display device 300 requires for the operation gestalt 1.

[0178]

The cel thickness d of the electrode width of face (ctenidium electrode width of face) L of the ctenidium-like electrode 4, an electrode spacing (ctenidium electrode spacing) S, and the dielectric matter layer 1 is the same as that of the operation gestalt 1. Namely, last shipment = They are 4 micrometers / 4 micrometers, and d= 5 micrometers. Moreover, it is ITO altogether like [ electrode material / of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5 ] the operation gestalt 1.

[0179]

Field strength E|| of substrate side inboard and field strength E\*\* of the direction of a substrate normal are also the same as that of the operation gestalt 1. That is, they are E||=18/9 / 5= 1.8v/micrometer. [ 4= 4.5v / micrometer / /and E\*\*=9 ] [0180]

Moreover, in a display device 300, the electrode spacing (electrode spacing of x directions) S of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is narrower than the electrode spacing N between the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5 (electrode spacing of the direction of z). Moreover, the electrode width of face (width of face of x directions) L of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is narrower than the electrode width of face (width of face of the direction of y) M of the ctenidium-like electrode 4.

[0181]

Moreover, it differs in a display device 300 in a display device 100, and it is not equipped with the orientation film 2 and the orientation film 3.

[0182]

Moreover, in a display device 300, it differs from the operation gestalt 1 in that the chiral agent is added by the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1. In addition, a chiral agent ties up the liquid crystal molecules which constitute the liquid crystallinity matter according to the twist force (helical twist power), and forms the cholesteric phase which has the twist (whorl) structure which the liquid crystal molecule has arranged where the include angle of a molecule major axis shifts for every flat surface. As a chiral agent, the chiral agent S811 (E. Merck) shown below is used.

[0183]

[Formula 6]

$$C_6H_{13}O$$
 —  $COO$  —  $CO$   $CH_{13}$   $COO$  —  $CO$ 

## [0184]

In addition, the mixture (chiral agent addition liquid crystal ingredient) of the chiral agent S811 and the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is adjusted so that concentration may become 35% chiral agent S 811% of the weight, and it serves as a cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase (chiral pneumatic liquid crystal phase) in the dielectric matter layer 1.

[0185]

Thus, by adding the chiral agent, at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression, as shown in <u>drawing 15</u>, the cluster (small group of a molecule) which makes the twist structure of having the chirality of the one direction of a right twist or a left twist generates the liquid crystal molecule in a display device 300.

## [0186]

[0187]

As shown in <u>drawing 15</u>, as for the cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase, the direction of a spiral medial axis (the direction of a screw axis, the Helix direction, direction shown by h all over drawing) has become perpendicular to the direction (direction shown by n all over drawing) of the director (polarization dipole) of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A. When the chiral pitch (a spontaneous twist pitch, natural chiral pitch) p was estimated by extrapolation using the Cano-wedge cel about this chiral agent addition liquid crystal ingredient leste rucksack liquid crystal phase (aggregate of the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a cholesteric phase), it was about 0.15 micrometers.

Thus, if the value of the chiral pitch p is smaller than light wavelength enough, in a chiral pneumatic liquid crystal phase (cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase), the light of the light will serve as negative 1 axial index ellipsoid as shown in <u>drawing 15</u> as a matter of fact, without the ability feeling a twist of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A. [0188]

That is, the index ellipsoid in a cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase turns into negative 1 axial index ellipsoid with larger (n//>n\*\*) refractive-index n//of a direction perpendicular to the Helix direction from refractive-index n\*\* of the Helix direction. In addition, refractive-index n//of the direction of a minor axis in the index ellipsoid which makes a cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase is expressed with n//=sigmaroot (ne2+no2) (/2) using the refractive index no of the direction of a minor axis of each liquid crystal molecule which constitutes the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A, and the refractive index ne of the direction of a major axis. Moreover, refractive-index n\*\* of the direction of a major axis in the index ellipsoid which makes a cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase is equal to the refractive index nO of the direction of a minor axis in each liquid crystal molecule (n\*\*=nO).

### [0189]

It is twisted with the chiral pitch p, and it will be twisted if the chiral pitch p becomes short, and the force is the relation of an inverse proportion and the force increases. For this reason, when [small] the chiral pitch p is about 0.15 micrometers, the twist force by the chiral agent S811 is prudent enough in the field of the chiral pitch p, and a liquid crystal molecule is firmly connected mutually as one ensemble (cluster). This is materialized also in the isotropic phase which is a temperature phase on one of the nematic phase which has long-distance order. That is, also in an isotropic phase, a short-distance-order field equivalent to the chiral pitch p can be formed by adding a chiral agent so much.

### [0190]

Here, the result of the experiment which investigates the optical property of a display device 300

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and which went to accumulate is explained using drawing 12 (a), drawing 12 (b), drawing 16 (a), and drawing 16 (b). Drawing 12 (a) is the sectional view showing the condition at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in a display device 300, and drawing 12 (b) is the sectional view showing the condition at the time of the electrical-potential-difference impression in a display device 300. Moreover, drawing 12 (a) and (b) are drawings at the time of seeing from substrate side inboard (the direction of the y-axis). <u>Drawing 16</u> (a) is the sectional view showing the condition of presenting the cholesteric phase in L field at the time of electrical-potentialdifference impression of a display device 300, and drawing 16 (b) is the sectional view showing the condition that the liquid crystal molecule carried out orientation in the same direction in L field at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of a display device 300. Moreover, drawing 12 is drawing at the time of seeing from the direction where it differs 90 degrees when drawing 16 (a) and (b) are seen from a substrate normal. In addition, it is temperature (T>Tni) with the temperature of the dielectric matter layer 1 higher than the phase transition temperature of a liquid crystal phase-isotropic phase, and, as for the dielectric matter layer, each drawing is in the isotropic phase condition. [0191]

First, the dielectric matter layer 1 is held in an isotropic phase temperature region. As shown in drawing 12 (a), even if the chiral agent is added so much as mentioned above in the isotropic phase temperature region at the time of OFF (at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing), the chiral agent addition liquid crystal ingredient shows the optical isotropy, and the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A has turned to the completely random direction. [0192]

On the other hand, as shown in <u>drawing 12</u> (b), at the time of ON (at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression), the contiguity interaction by the twist force of a chiral agent works first in the S region which is a field between ctenidium-like electrode 4a-4b, and optical anisotropy generates a display device 300 to this field.

[0193]

That is, in an S region, a liquid crystal molecule tends to carry out orientation into a field perpendicular to the direction of electric field with the property of the negative mold of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A. Moreover, it can come, simultaneously the Helix direction tends to carry out orientation in the same direction as the direction of electric field by the contiguity interaction by the twist force of the chiral agent S811. In addition, in an S region, the field strength of substrate side inboard is stronger than the field strength of the direction of a substrate normal (field strength E||> field strength E\*\*), and since the electrode spacing S of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is narrower than the electrode spacing N between the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5, it is seldom influenced of the liquid crystal molecule in L field.

[0194]

This becomes the same arrangement (the direction of a major axis of an index ellipsoid the substrate side of the translucency substrate 6 abbreviation condition which becomes perpendicular) as the form where negative 1 axial index ellipsoid (AMPAN) started to the translucency substrate 6 in an S region. Therefore, since it is n//-n\*\*>0 in a cholesteric-liquid-crystal phase, phase contrast is discovered between the translucency substrate 6 and the translucency substrate 7, and light penetrates.

[0195]

Moreover, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of L field is in the condition of being inserted into an orientation field to which the index ellipsoid of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A in an S region started. That is, the index ellipsoid of the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A in an S region is in a condition like the wall extended in the shape of a stripe in the direction (the direction of y) perpendicular to the translucency substrate 6, and has sandwiched the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A of L field. And in L field, the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A is restricted by the property of a negative mold, the direction where the direction of orientation (the direction of a major axis) is perpendicular to the electric field of a substrate perpendicular direction, i.e., the substrate side inboard, of a liquid crystal molecule.

# [0196]

That is, at the time of electric-field impression, first, as shown in <u>drawing 16</u> (a), in L field, it becomes the form where the Helix direction turned to the direction of a substrate normal from the effectiveness by the chiral agent being added.
[0197]

however, since L field is inserted into the wall with which the electrode width of face (width of face of x directions) L was extended in the shape of a stripe in the direction of y of an S region on both sides with 4 micrometers very narrowly (the electrode width of face (width of face of the direction of y) M — narrowly), the effectiveness (the anchoring effectiveness) of the wall of both sides influences L field in an instant. Thereby, as a result, as shown in <u>drawing 16</u> (b), in L field, a liquid crystal molecule will be in the condition of having carried out orientation in the direction of y on the average. When inserted into the wall which the liquid crystal molecule was confined in the field (L field) of sufficiently narrow width of face, and was extended from both sides to the one direction, elastic energy depends this on the self-stacking tendency ability of the liquid crystal molecule made into the other side at min in the direction where the direction of a major axis of a liquid crystal molecule is parallel to a wall if possible. Moreover, when this condition is expressed optically, it is in a condition the direction of a major axis of the Rugby ball with which the major axis of an index ellipsoid was extended in the direction of y turned [ condition ] to the direction of y.

## [0198]

That is, the field strength of 1 substrate side inboard is stronger than the field strength of the direction of a substrate normal (field strength E||> field strength E\*\*), 2) The electrode spacing (electrode spacing of x directions) S of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 is narrower than the electrode spacing N between the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5 (electrode spacing of the direction of z), 3) According to the electrode width of face (width of face of x directions) L of the ctenidium-like electrode 4 being narrower than the electrode width of face (width of face of the direction of y) M of the ctenidium-like electrode 4, a spiral twist does not arise in the liquid crystal molecule of L field, but orientation is carried out in the direction of y.

### [0199]

Therefore, in L field, when molecular orientation restraining force with substrate perpendicular direction electric field and a wall is put together (influenced by generating of the phase contrast of an S region) and the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A carries out orientation in the direction of y, phase contrast is discovered in the direction of y, and light penetrates. Therefore, in a display device 300, all fields not only including an S region but L field are usable (a display is possible) as a transparency field. Thereby, since an electric-field impression means is a transparent electrode, the display device which has a high numerical aperture and high permeability is realizable.

### [0200]

Except not forming the plate-like electrode 5 on the translucency substrate 7, in order to compare with a display device 300 here, the display device 302 (refer to drawing 14) for a comparison which replaced with the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and was equipped with the plate-like electrode 5 is prepared on a display device, the display device 301 (refer to drawing 13) for a comparison manufactured similarly, and the translucency substrate 6, and the result investigated about the orientation condition at the time of impressing electric field at them is explained.

## [0201]

As shown in <u>drawing 13</u>, a display device 301 is equipped only with the ctenidium-like electrode 4 on the translucency substrate 6 as an electrical-potential-difference impression means, and is not equipped with the plate-like electrode 5 (electrical-potential-difference impression means) on the translucency substrate 7. In addition, it is the same as that of a display device 300 except the configuration of an electrical-potential-difference impression means. [0202]

Since it does not have the electrical-potential-difference impression means on the translucency

substrate 7, and electric field do not arise to L field and orientation of the liquid crystal molecule in this area (field) is not carried out in a display device 301 as shown in this drawing, L field cannot be used as a viewing area.

[0203]

As shown in drawing 14, on the translucency substrate 6 and the translucency substrate 7, a display device 302 is equipped with the plate-like electrode 5, respectively, and is not equipped with the ctenidium-like electrode 4. In addition, it has the same composition as a display device 300 except the configuration of an electrical-potential-difference impression means. [0204]

 As shown in this drawing, in a display device 302, a liquid crystal molecule turns to substrate side inboard by substrate perpendicular direction electric field. Furthermore, according to the twist force of a chiral agent, into a substrate side, a liquid crystal molecule is twisted spirally and carries out orientation.

[0205]

However, if it sees optically in the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A in this case, the direction of an optical axis of negative 1 axial index ellipsoid (the direction of a minor axis of an index ellipsoid) will have turned to the direction of a substrate normal (the direction of z), and the phase contrast between the translucency substrate 6 and the translucency substrate 7 will serve as zero substantially. Therefore, even if it impresses lengthwise direction electric field (electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal) to a display device 302, phase contrast is not discovered in all fields and light does not penetrate. [0206]

As mentioned above, orientation of the liquid crystal molecule can be carried out by the low battery, without using the orientation film by generating electric field using the ctenidium-like electrode 4 and the plate-like electrode 5, while adding a chiral agent in the dielectric matter layer 1.

[0207]

Moreover, since it is necessary to form neither the orientation film nor a micro groove, a production process can be simplified and reduction of a manufacturing cost can be aimed at. [0208]

In addition, although a chiral agent shall be added to the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 in the above-mentioned explanation, the liquid crystallinity matter itself may use what has chiral nature (chiral matter) as liquid crystallinity matter enclosed not only with this but with the dielectric matter layer 1. Also in this case, the same effectiveness as a configuration and abbreviation which adds a chiral agent can be acquired.

[0209] In the gestalt of each above-mentioned implementation, it was presupposed that the translucency substrate 6, the translucency substrate 7, the ctenidium-like electrode 4, and the plate-like electrode 5 are translucency (it is transparent to the light). However, you may be not the thing limited to this but the substrate with which one side of the translucency substrate 6 and the translucency substrate 7 does not have translucency. That is, it is good also as a display device of the reflective mold to which it reflects in by the substrate side of another side, and outgoing radiation of the light (outdoor daylight) which carried out incidence from the substrate side which has translucency is carried out from the substrate by the side of incidence. Moreover, the electrode formed on the substrate which does not have translucency in this case may be formed with a non-translucency ingredient, and a reflective means may be formed in the incidence side of light rather than this electrode.

[0210]

Moreover, the electrode with which one substrate and its substrate are equipped may be formed with a transflective type ingredient. In this case, in a dark location, it displays by making the light of a back light penetrate, and a back light cannot be used but the transflective type liquid crystal display which displays by reflecting outdoor daylight can also consist of bright locations.

Moreover, in the gestalt of each above-mentioned implementation, it was presupposed that it is

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the liquid crystallinity matter contained in the dielectric matter layer 1 the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient A. However, the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 is not limited to this, and the optical anisotropy of the same direction should just discover it by the electric field of the direction of a substrate side normal, and the electric field of substrate side inboard.

[0212]

Moreover, the liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 may show liquid crystallinity with a single compound, and may show liquid crystallinity by mixing of two or more matter. Or other non-liquid crystallinity matter may be mixed in these.

[0213]

Moreover, as liquid crystallinity matter enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1, it has the order structure for example, below optical wavelength, and a dielectric anisotropy can apply a negative thing among the liquid crystal phases which look isotropic optically. By impressing electric field to these, a strain can be given to the fine structure of a molecule or the aggregate, and induction of the optical modulation can be carried out. Moreover, since the orientation of a molecule can be promoted by forming the orientation nominal member also when using these liquid crystallinity matter, it becomes possible to drive by the low battery.

[0214]

In addition, when forming orientation nominal members, such as the macromolecule chain 22, into the dielectric matter layer 1, it is the liquid crystal ingredient in which the property of a negative mold is shown, and it is desirable to use the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a nematic phase in the temperature requirement under one which shows an isotropic phase. Thereby, the effect of an interface can perform for example, giant-molecule stabilization (formation of an orientation nominal member) in the nematic phase spread to the whole liquid crystal phase including a bulk field.

[0215]

Moreover, both the liquid crystal ingredients enclosed with the dielectric matter layer 1 have delta n and large delta epsilon, and it is desirable that Tni is close to a room temperature. [0216]

Moreover, the display equipped with the display device 100, the display device 200, or the display device 300 can also be used. That is, while having two or more display devices of this invention, the display equipped with the switching means which changes the electrical-potential-difference impression condition, and electrical-potential-difference the condition of not impressing in each display device, and the control means which controls actuation of each switching means can be constituted.

[0217]

By constituting a display using the display device of this invention, the display which can be made possible without a trade-off of a low-battery drive, an extensive temperature requirement and extensive angle-of-visibility nature, and high-speed responsibility is realizable. [0218]

The display of this invention has any of a display device 100, a display device 200, and a display device 300 they are in the one section of a pixel, or 1 pixel. For example, you may be the display with which the display which displays images, such as television broadcasting, and video, DVD, a word processor, a personal computer, a cellular phone, etc. are equipped. Moreover, since a low-battery drive, an extensive temperature requirement and extensive angle-of-visibility nature, and high-speed responsibility are realizable without a trade-off, it is very promising also as next-generation FPD (flat-panel display) television.

[0219]

This invention is not limited to each operation gestalt mentioned above, and various modification is possible for it in the range shown in the claim, and it is contained in the technical range of this invention also about the operation gestalt acquired by different operation gestalt, combining suitably the technical means indicated, respectively.

[Availability on industry]

[0220]

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The display device of this invention can be used for the display at large which displays using liquid crystal. For example, it is used for various applications, such as an indicating equipment with which PC, a cellular phone, etc. are equipped, television, and the next generation FPD. [Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0221]

[Drawing 1] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning 1 operation gestalt of this invention, and (a) is the sectional view showing the optical isotropy of the dielectric matter layer at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression.

[Drawing 2] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the polarization shaft orientations of a polarizing plate in the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>, and the direction of rubbing.

[Drawing 3] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the second electric-field impression means in the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>, the direction of substrate side inboard electric field, and the direction of the direction electric field of a substrate normal.

[Drawing 4] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning other operation gestalten of this invention. (a) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule by the micro groove at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in the nematic phase condition when not forming a giant-molecule chain. (b) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in the nematic phase condition, (c) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing with an isotropic phase state, and (d) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of the electrical-potential-difference impression with an isotropic phase state.

[Drawing 5] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the polarization shaft orientations of a polarizing plate in the display device of drawing 4, and the direction of a slot of a micro groove.

[Drawing 6] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the second electric—field impression means in the display device of <u>drawing 4</u>, the direction of substrate side inboard electric field, and the direction of the direction electric field of a substrate normal.

[Drawing 7] The orientation condition of the liquid crystallinity matter in the display device of drawing 4 is shown, (a) is a top view when seeing from [ of the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing ] a substrate normal, and (b) is a top view when seeing from [ of the time of electrical-potential-difference impression ] a substrate normal.

[Drawing 8] It is the perspective view showing the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient used for the display device concerning 1 operation gestalt and other operation gestalten of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the substrate, the second electric-field impression means, and the sectional view showing a micro groove in the display device of drawing 4.

[Drawing 10] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>.

[Drawing 11] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>.

[Drawing 12] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning other operation gestalten of this invention, and (a) is the sectional view showing the optical isotropy of the dielectric matter layer at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression.

[Drawing 13] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer

discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of drawing 12.

[Drawing 14] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of drawing 12.

[Drawing 15] It is the perspective view showing the aggregate of the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a cholesteric phase used for the display device of drawing 12.

[Drawing 16] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device of <u>drawing 12</u>, and (a) is the sectional view showing the condition that the aggregate of the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a cholesteric phase on the first electrode and the second electrode at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression has arisen, and (b) is the sectional view showing the condition that the liquid crystal molecule carried out orientation in the same direction on the first electrode and the second electrode at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression.

[Description of Notations]

## [0222]

- 1 Dielectric Matter Layer
- 2 Orientation Film
- 3 Orientation Film
- 4 Ctenidium-like Electrode (First Electrode, Second Electrode)
- 4a Ctenidium-like electrode (the first electrode, electrode pair)
- 4b Ctenidium-like electrode (the second electrode, electrode pair)
- 5 Plate-like Electrode (Third Electrode)
- 6 Translucency Substrate (Substrate)
- 7 Translucency Substrate (Substrate)
- 8 Polarizing Plate
- 9 Polarizing Plate
- 10 Negative-Mold Liquid Crystal Ingredient A (Liquid Crystallinity Matter)
- 11 The Direction of Rubbing
- 12 The Direction of Rubbing
- 14 Micro Groove (Orientation Film)
- 15 Micro Groove (Orientation Film)
- 22 Macromolecule Chain (Orientation Nominal Member)
- 100 Display Device
- 101 Display Device for Comparison
- 102 Display Device for Comparison
- 200 Display Device
- 300 Display Device
- 301 Display Device for Comparison
- 302 Display Device for Comparison

### [Translation done.]

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- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

## **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[Brief Description of the Drawings]
[0221]

[Drawing 1] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning 1 operation gestalt of this invention, and (a) is the sectional view showing the optical isotropy of the dielectric matter layer at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression.

[Drawing 2] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the polarization shaft orientations of a polarizing plate in the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>, and the direction of rubbing.

[Drawing 3] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the second electric—field impression means in the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>, the direction of substrate side inboard electric field, and the direction of the direction electric field of a substrate normal.

[Drawing 4] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning other operation gestalten of this invention. (a) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule by the micro groove at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in the nematic phase condition when not forming a giant-molecule chain. (b) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing in the nematic phase condition, (c) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing with an isotropic phase state, and (d) shows the orientation condition of the liquid crystal molecule at the time of the electrical-potential-difference impression with an isotropic phase state.

[Drawing 5] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the polarization shaft orientations of a polarizing plate in the display device of drawing 4, and the direction of a slot of a micro groove.

[Drawing 6] It is the top view when seeing from a substrate normal showing the arrangement relation of the second electric—field impression means in the display device of <u>drawing 4</u>, the direction of substrate side inboard electric field, and the direction of the direction electric field of a substrate normal.

[Drawing 7] The orientation condition of the liquid crystallinity matter in the display device of drawing 4 is shown, (a) is a top view when seeing from [ of the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing ] a substrate normal, and (b) is a top view when seeing from [ of the time of electrical-potential-difference impression ] a substrate normal.

[Drawing 8] It is the perspective view showing the negative-mold liquid crystal ingredient used for the display device concerning 1 operation gestalt and other operation gestalten of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the substrate, the second electric-field impression means, and the sectional view showing a micro groove in the display device of drawing 4.

[Drawing 10] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>.

[Drawing 11] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of <u>drawing 1</u>.

[Drawing 12] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device concerning other operation gestalten of this invention, and (a) is the sectional view showing the optical isotropy of the dielectric matter layer at the time of no electrical-potential-difference impressing, and (b) is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression.

[Drawing 13] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer

discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of <u>drawing 12</u>.

[Drawing 14] It is the sectional view showing the optical anisotropy of the dielectric matter layer discovered at the time of electrical-potential-difference impression of the display device for the comparison to the display device of drawing 12.

[Drawing 15] It is the perspective view showing the aggregate of the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a cholesteric phase used for the display device of drawing 12.

[Drawing 16] It is the sectional view showing the configuration of the display device of drawing 12, and (a) is the sectional view showing the condition that the aggregate of the liquid crystallinity matter which presents a cholesteric phase on the first electrode and the second electrode at the time of electrical—potential—difference impression has arisen, and (b) is the sectional view showing the condition that the liquid crystal molecule carried out orientation in the same direction on the first electrode and the second electrode at the time of electrical—potential—difference impression.

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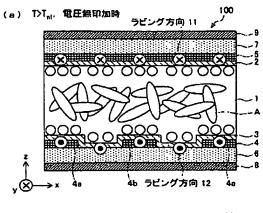
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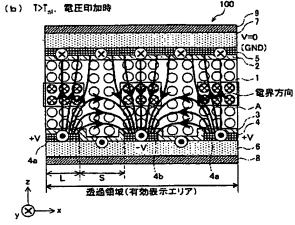
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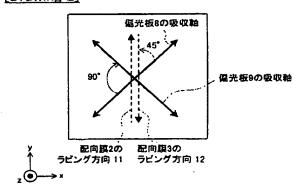
## **DRAWINGS**

## [Drawing 1]

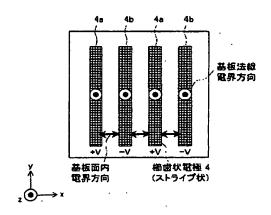


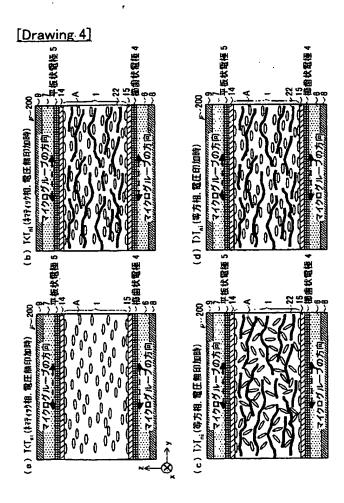


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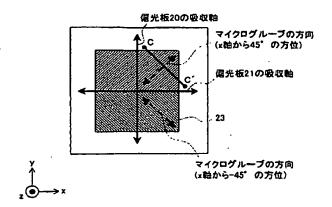


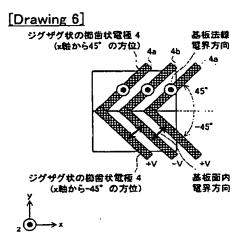
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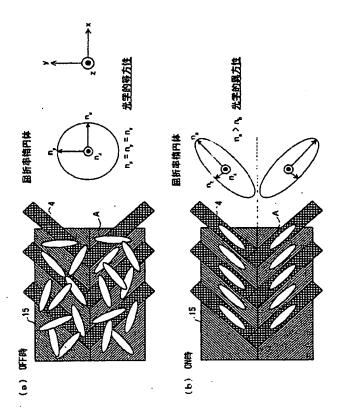


[Drawing 5]

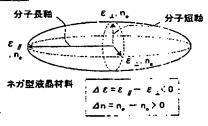




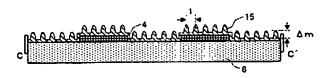
[Drawing 7]



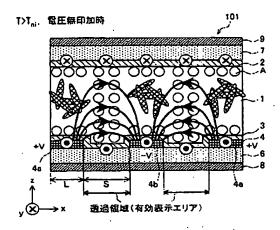




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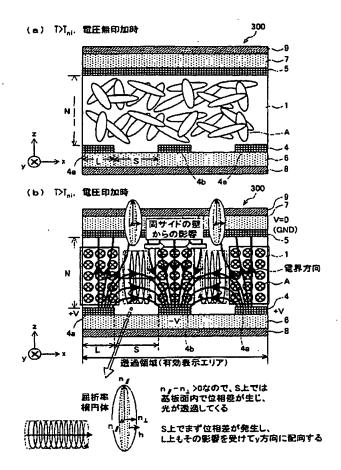


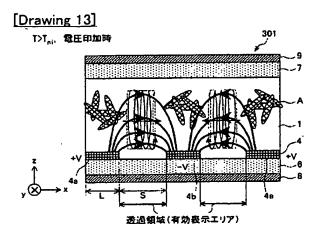
[Drawing 10]



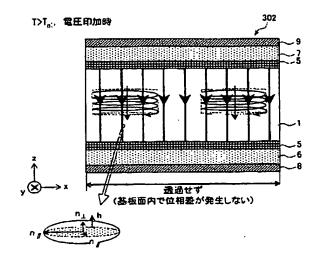
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[Drawing 12]

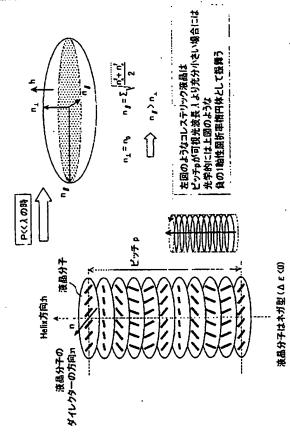




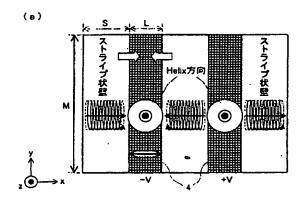
[Drawing 14]

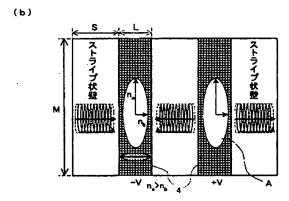


# [Drawing 15]



[Drawing 16]





[Translation done.]

## (19) 日本国特許庁(JP)

# (12)公開特許公報(A)

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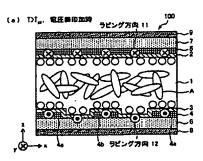
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	•			審査請求	· 未開求 ・ 請求項の数 21 OL (全 33 頁)
(21) 出願番号 (22) 出願日	特願2004-183018 (P2004-183018) 平成16年6月21日 (2004.6.21)			(71) 出願人	、000005049 シャープ株式会社 大阪府大阪市阿倍野区長池町22番22号
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					最終頁に続く

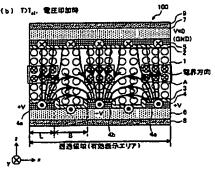
## (54) 【発明の名称】表示素子および表示裝置

## (57)【要約】

【課題】 駆動電圧が低く、かつ、高応答性能を有する 表示素子を実現する。

【選択図】 図1





#### 【特許請求の範囲】

#### 【請求項1】

対向する一対の基板と、上記一対の基板に挟持される誘電性物質層と、上記誘電性物質層内に電界を生じさせる電界印加手段手段とを備えた表示案子において、

上記誘電性物質層に、電圧無印加時には光学的等方性を示し、電圧を印加することによって光学的異方性が発現する液晶性物質を含み、

上記電界印加手段は、上記基板面に垂直な方向の電気力線を含む第一電界、および、上記基板面に平行な方向の電気力線を含む第二電界を生じさせることを特徴とする表示素子

#### 【請求項2】

上記電界印加手段は、一方の基板に形成された第一電極および第二電極と、他方の基板に形成された第三電極とからなり、

上記第一電極と第三電極との間、および、上記第二電極と第三電極との間に電圧を印加 することによって、上記第一電界を生じさせ、

上記第一電極と第二電極との間に電圧を印加することによって上記第二電界を生じさせることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の表示素子。

## 【請求項3】

上記第一電極および上記第二電極は、それぞれ、互いに平行な複数の電極対を有し、

上記第一電極における上記電極対と、上記第二電極における上記電極対とが、上記基板の基板面に平行な方向に、互いに平行となるように、交互に配置されていることを特徴とする請求項2に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項4】

上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対は、一方向に延在する形状からなる ことを特徴とする請求項3に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項5】

上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対は、上記基板面の法線方向から見て ジグザグ形状を有することを特徴とする請求項3に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項6】

上記第三電極は、上記第一電極および上記第二電極における電位の平均の電位を有する ことを特徴とする請求項2~4のいずれか1項に記載の表示案子。

#### 【請求項7】

上記一方の基板およびその基板に形成された第一電極および第二電極と、他方の基板およびその基板に形成された第三電極と、の少なくとも一方が、可視光に対して透明であることを特徴とする請求項2~6のいずれか1項に記載の表示案子。

#### 【請求項8】

上記液晶性物質は、分子の短軸方向の誘電率が長軸方向の誘電率より大きい液晶分子からなることを特徴とする請求項1~7のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子。

## 【請求項9】

上記液晶性物質は、ネマティック相とアイソトロピック相とに相転移する液晶性物質であり、

上記液晶性物質がアイソトロピック相を呈することによって、上記電圧無印加時における光学的等方性を示すことを特徴とする請求項1~8のいずれか1項に記載の表示案子. 【請求項10】

上記液晶性物質を構成する分子は、

電圧無印加時に光学波長以下の秩序構造を有し、電圧を印加することによって上記秩序構造が変化して光学的異方性を示すことを特徴とする請求項1~9のいずれか1項に記載の表示装置。

#### 【請求項11】

上記基板の少なくとも一方と、上記誘電性物質層との間に、上記誘電性物質層に含まれ

る液晶性物質の液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向させる配 向膜が設けられていることを特徴とする請求項1~10のいずれか1項に記載の表示案子

#### 【請求項12】

上記配向膜は、上記液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向させるためのラビング処理が施されていることを特徴とする請求項11に記載の表示素子。

上記配向膜は、上記液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向させるための多数の溝が形成されてなることを特徴とする請求項11に記載の表示案子。 【請求項14】

上記多数の溝は、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対と平行な方向に延在する形状からなることを特徴とする請求項3~13のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子。 【請求項15】

上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対が、上記基板面の法線方向から見て、ジグザグ形状を有する場合、

上記多数の溝は、上記基板面の法線方向から見て、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対と平行な方向にジグザグに延在する形状からなることを特徴とする請求項14に記載の表示素子。

## 【請求項16】

上記誘電性物質層に、上記光学的異方性の発現を促進させるための配向補助材が形成されていることを特徴とする請求項1~15のいずれか1項に表示素子。

#### 【請求項17】

上記配向補助材は鎖状高分子材料、網目状高分子材料、多孔質無機材料、水素結合体のいずれかからなることを特徴とする請求項16に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項18】

上記誘電性物質層に、カイラル剤が添加されていることを特徴とする請求項 $1\sim17$ のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項19】

上記誘電性物質層に封入する液晶性物質が、カイラル物質であることを特徴とする請求 項1~17のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項20】

上記誘電性物質層に封入する液晶性物質は、電界強度の2次に比例して屈折率が変化することを特徴とする請求項1~19のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子。

#### 【請求項21】

・ 請求項1~20のいずれか1項に記載の表示素子を具備していることを特徴とする表示

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#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

#### 【技術分野】

#### [0001]

本発明は、等方相を呈している状態で表示に使用される表示案子、および表示装置に関する。

## 【背景技術】

#### [0002]

従来から、ネマティック液晶を用いた液晶表示累子は、時計や電卓等の数値をセグメント型表示する表示累子から始まり、省スペースかつ低消費電力という長所を活かしたノートブックPCや、デスクトップモニター用ディスプレイとしても広く普及している。そして近年ではCRT(Cathode Ray Tube)で独占されていたテレビの市場においても、FPD(Flat Panel Display)の代表格としてLCD(Liquid Crystal Display)-TVは確固たる地位を築きつつある。

#### [0003]

ところで、従来のLCD-TVでは、動画に対応し得る高速動画応答性能と、見る角度

によって画像、画質が変化しないという広視野角性能とを向上させることが課題となって いる。

#### [0004]

すなわち、ネマティック液晶相の液晶表示モードである、ツイステッドネマティック(TN (Twisted Nematic))モード、位相差板で光学的に補償したTNモード、インプレーンスイッチング(IPS (In-Plane-Switching))モード、バーティカルアラインメント(VA (Vertical Alignment))モード、および光学補償ベンド(OCB (Optically Compensated Birefringence))モード等は、LCD-TVとして既に市場に出ているものもあるが、高速動画性能と広視野角性能をさらに向上させることが望まれている。
【0005】

また、ネマティック液晶相より秩序度が高いスメクティック液晶相において強誘電性が発現した強誘電性液晶(FLC(Ferroelectricity Liquid Crystal))モードもしくは反強誘電性液晶(AFLC(Antiferroelectric Liquid Crystal))モードは、本質的にマイクロ秒程度の非常に高速な応答を示すが、耐衝撃性、温度特性等の課題が解決されておらず、実用化には至っていない。

#### [0006]

その他、散乱と透明とをスイッチングさせる高分子分散型液晶(PDLC (Polymer Diffuse Liquid Crystal))モードは、偏光板が不要であり高輝度表示が可能であるが、散乱と透明とのコントラスト差が低い、駆動電圧が高い等の課題があって実用化されていない。

#### [0007]

上記で述べた複数のネマティックモード (ネマティック (Nematic)液晶相の液晶表示モード) は、いずれもバルクの液晶相が配向変化して光学的に取り出す表示方式となっており、見る角度、見る方位によって画質は全く同一とはならない。またバルクの液晶相が応答するにはどうしても数十~数百ミリ秒程度の時間を要してしまうため、数ミリ秒以下への更なる高速応答化は困難である。

## [0008]

ネマティック相においては、基板界面の配向規制力によって基板界面付近の液晶分子が配向し、それがきっかけとなって液晶分子自体が持つ自己配向性によって、セル内部のバルク全体に渡って液晶分子が配向する、いわゆる長距離秩序(long range order)が存在している。このような長距離秩序による配向は、セル内部のバルク全体に液晶分子自体の自己配向性による配向規制力が伝播するまでの時間を要する。また、液晶分子の配向方向も一定の方向に限られる。従って、ネマティックモード(ネマティック液晶表示モード)による液晶分子の配向を用いている限り、LCDITVにおいて必須となる高速応答性と広視野角性との実現には本質的に限界がある。

#### [0009]

これに対し、スメクティック液晶モードであるFLC、AFLCといった表示モードは 高速応答性と広視野角性との解決策になり得るが、耐衝撃性、温度特性等の課題が本質的 に解決できない。

## [0010]

一方、電界印加によるバルクの液晶分子の回転を利用するこれらの表示モードに対して、2次の電気光学効果を利用した電子分極による表示方式が提案されている。電気光学効果とは、物質の屈折率が外部電界によって変化する現象である。電気光学効果としては、物質の屈折率が電界の1次に比例する効果、および2次に比例する効果とがあり、それぞれポッケルス効果、およびカー効果と呼ばれている。

#### [0011]

カー効果は1875年にJ. Kerr (カー) によって発見されたものであり、これまでにカー効果を示す材料としてはニトロベンゼンや二硫化炭素等の有機液体が知られている。これら材料は、例えば、上記した高速の光シャッター、光変調素子、光偏向素子、または電力ケーブル等の高電界強度測定等に利用されている。

#### [0012]

また、液晶材料が大きなカー定数を有することが示され、光変調素子、光偏向素子、更には光集積回路への応用に向けて基礎検討が行われ、上記ニトロベンゼンの200倍を超えるカー定数を示す液晶化合物も報告されている。

#### [0013]

このような状況において、カー効果の表示装置への応用が検討され始めている。カー効果を表示装置に適用した場合、カー効果は本質的に数マイクロ秒~数ミリ秒の応答特性を示すため、高速応答表示装置の実現が期待できる。

#### [0014]

ところで、カー効果は、物質の屈折率が電界強度の2次に比例するため、電界の1次に 比例するボッケルス効果と比較して相対的に低電圧駆動を見込むことができる。しかしな がら、カー効果を利用しない液晶表示素子と比較すると駆動電圧が高くなる可能性がある 。そのため、カー効果を表示素子に適用するためには、駆動電圧を低下させる必要がある

#### [0015]

そこで、例えば特許文献1では、予め基板表面に配向処理を施しておき、カー効果が発現しやすいような状態を作り出す手法が提案されている。

【特許文献1】特開2001-249363号公報(公開日2001年9月14日) 【発明の開示】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

#### [0016]

しかしながら、特許文献 1 に開示されている方法ではカー効果が発現しやすくなる範囲は基板界面近傍に限られる。すなわち、配向処理が施された基板界面近傍の分子しか配向させられない。従って、この技術では、駆動電圧をわずかしか低減できない。

#### [0017]

また、特許文献1には、基板上に配向処理を施した配向膜を塗布して、大きなカー定数が見込まれ、結果として低電圧化が実現できると記載されている。しかしながら、この方法によって得られる低電圧化の効果は、実使用上充分ではない。また、特許文献1の技術では、カー効果を用いた表示を行える温度範囲も狭く、表示装置として実用化するのが困難である。

#### [0018]

これは液晶層を等方相(アイソトロピック相、Isotropic相)において駆動させていることに起因している。

#### [0019]

従来の液晶ディスプレイは、液晶層(誘電性物質層)に封入されている液晶性物質がネマティック相(Nematic相)を示す状態において駆動させている。従来の液晶ディスプレイでは、液晶層がネマティック相を示す状態において、基板界面に予め配向処理を施した配向膜がきっかけとなって、基板界面上の液晶分子の配向方向(極角、方位角)が規定される。さらに、この基板界面における液晶分子の配向性が、液晶分子自体が持つ自己配向能力によって、セル内部に向かって伝播する。これにより、バルクの液晶層全体が一様に配向した状態でスイッチングする(配向方向が変化する)。

これに対し、特許文献1に開示されているのは主に、ネマティック相の上の相である等方相において電界を印加して、電界強度の2次に比例する屈折率変化(カー効果)を発現させるものである。すなわち、特許文献1における液晶材料は、ネマティック相から温度を上げていくと、ある臨界温度(Tni点、ネマティック-アイソトロピック相転移温度)以上になると等方相に相転移する。そして、特許文献1では、液晶材料が等方相を示している状態において、この液晶材料に電界を印加し、カー効果を発現させる。

#### [0021]

[0020]

等方相においては通常の液体と同じように、熱力学的揺らぎのファクター(運動エネル

ギー)が分子間に作用する力より大きく、分子は自由に移動・回転している。等方相中においては液晶分子間に働く自己配向能力が働かないので、界面に配向処理を施してもそれはセル内部にはあまり伝わらず、多少の低電圧化は実現できても、ディスプレイとして実用化できるレベルにまでは至らない。更に、前述の熱力学的揺らぎのファクター(運動エネルギー)は温度が上昇すると著しく大きくなり、カー効果が発現する電圧は著しく上昇する。

[0022]

さらに、特許文献1の技術を、基板法線方向に電界を発生させることによってネガ型液晶性を有する分子を配向させる表示素子に適用する場合、バルク領域における分子長軸方向の方位が一方向に定まらないという問題がある。即ち、ラビング処理が施された基板界面近傍では電界印加により液晶分子がラビング方向に配列しようとするが、基板から離れたバルク領域では分子長軸方向の方位が基板面内方向のあらゆる方向を向く。これは分子の分極が配列したとしても、分極が概ね分子短軸方向に存在するためである。即ち、電界印加により分極が配向していても、バルク領域を正面方向(基板法線方向)から見ると光学的には等方であり光学特性に寄与しない。従ってこの表示素子に特許文献1の技術を適用しても、実用レベルの電圧で得られる光学特性は基板近傍のみであり、実用レベルをはるかに上回る駆動電圧を印加しない限り、バルク領域において光学応答を得られない。【0023】

また、特許文献1の技術を、基板面内方向の電界により、ポジ型液晶性を有する分子を配向させる表示素子に適用する場合、バルク領域の配向方位は、電界方向とほぼ同一に決められるが、配向処理によって配向が低電圧化される領域は基板界面近傍のみであり、やはり、駆動電圧を実用レベルにまでは低減できない。

#### [0024]

本発明は上述した課題に鑑みてなされた発明であり、その目的は、電圧無印加時に光学的等方性を示し、電圧印加に光学的異方性が発現する表示素子であって、駆動電圧が低く、かつ、高速応答性能を有する表示素子、およびそれを用いた表示装置を提供するものである

## 【課題を解決するための手段】

[0025]

本発明に係る表示素子は、上記課題を解決するために、対向する一対の基板と、上記一対の基板に挟持される誘電性物質層と、上記誘電性物質層内に電界を生じさせる電界印加手段手段とを備えた表示素子において、上記誘電性物質層に、電圧無印加時には光学的等方性を示し、電圧を印加することによって光学的異方性が発現する液晶性物質を含み、上記電界印加手段は、上記基板面に垂直な方向の電気力線を含む第一電界、および、上記基板面に平行な方向の電気力線を含む第二電界を生じさせることを特徴とする。

これにより、電界印加手段は、電気力線が基板の面に垂直な方向の第一電界、および電気力線が基板の面に平行な方向の第二電界を含む電界を生じさせ、第一電界および第二電界を含む電界によって、液晶性物質に光学的異方性を発現させる。

[0027]

そのため、上記の2つの電界のどちらか一方が存在する場合より低い電圧を印加して、 誘電性物質層に電界を生じさせ、光学的異方性が発現することが可能となる。よって、低 電圧駆動で、高速応答性能を有する表示素子を実現することができる。

[0028]

また、上記第一電界がきっかけとなって上記第二電界における光学的異方性の発現を促進させる、または、上記第二電界がきっかけとなって上記第一電界における光学的異方性の発現を促進させる場合は、より低い電圧を印加することで光学的異方性を発現させることが可能となる。

[0029]

また、上記電界印加手段は、一方の基板に形成された第一電極および第二電極と、他方

の基板に形成された第三電極とからなり、上記第一電極と第三電極との間、および、上記 第二電極と第三電極との間に電圧を印加することによって、上記第一電界を生じさせ、上 記第一電極と第二電極との間に電圧を印加することによって上記第二電界を生じさせるこ とが好ましい。

## [0030]

上記の構成とすると、第一電極と第三電極との間、および第二電極と第三電極との間の 電位差により生じる第一電界と、第一電極と第二電極との間の電位差により生じる第二電 界との両方により、光学異方性が発現する。そのため、低電圧で、かつ高速応答性能を有 する表示素子を実現できる。

#### [0031]

また、上記第一電極および上記第二電極は、それぞれ、互いに平行な複数の電極対を有し、上記第一電極における上記電極対と、上記第二電極における上記電極対とが、上記基板の基板面に平行な方向に、互いに平行となるように、交互に配置されていることが好ましい。

#### [0032]

上記の構成とすると、第一電極と第二電極とは、電極対が基板の基板面に平行な方向に、互いに平行となるように配置されている。これにより、各電極対間において、均一な電界強度を有する第二電界を生じさせることができる。そのため、不必要に大きい電圧を印加すること無く、低電圧で光学的異方性を発現させることができる。

#### [0033]

また、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対は、一方向に延在する形状からなることが好ましい。

#### [0034]

上記の構成とすると、第一電極および第二電極における各電極対が一方向に延在している。これにより、電極対間において、同一方向の電気力線を有する第二電界が生じるため、第二電界により、液晶性物質を構成する液晶分子を同一方向に配向させることができる。よって、上記分子の配向により光学的異方性が発現する構成とすることが可能である。【0035】

また、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対は、上記基板面の法線方向から見て、ジグザグ形状を有していてもよい。

#### [0036]

上記の構成とすると、第一電極および第二電極における各電極対が、基板面の法線方向から見て、ジグザグ形状を有している。これにより、基板面の法線方向から見て、各電極対のジグザグ形状に沿ってジグザグ形状に、第一電界および第二電界を形成できる。そのため、異なる方向に光学的異方性が発現し、光学的異方性の方向同士が互いにジグザグ形状を成す、複数の領域を有することができる。よって、広視野角な表示素子が実現できる

#### [0037]

また、上記第三電極は、上記第一電極および上記第二電極における電位の平均の電位を有することが好ましい。

#### [0038]

上記の構成とすると、第三電極は、第一電極と第二電極との平均の電位を有するため、 第一電極と第三電極との間、および第二電極と第三電極との間に、同じ電界強度を有する 第一電界を生じさせることができる。これにより、不必要に大きい電圧を印加すること無 く、効率よく光学的異方性を発現させることができる。

## [0039]

また、上記第一電極および第二電極と第三電極との両方、または片方は透明の電極からなり、第一電極および第二電極が透明の電極からなる場合、第一電極および第二電極が形成された基板が透明であり、第三電極が透明の電極からなる場合、第三電極が形成された基板が透明であることが好ましい。

#### [0040]

上記の構成とすると、誘電性物質層における、第一電界が生じている領域および第二電 界が生じている領域の両方の領域を表示に使用することが可能となるので、高開口率を有 する表示案子が実現できる。

#### [0041]

上記液晶性物質は、分子の短軸方向の誘電率が長軸方向の誘電率より大きい液晶分子からなることが好ましい。

#### [0042]

上記の構成により、分子の短軸方向を第一電界および第二電界に平行な方向に配向させ、配向規制力を誘電性物質層界面から離れたバルク領域においても光学的異方性を発現させることができる。

#### [0043]

上記液晶性物質は、ネマティック相とアイソトロピック相とに相転移する液晶性物質であり、上記液晶性物質がアイソトロピック相を呈することによって、上記電圧無印加時における光学的等方性を示すことが好ましい。

#### [0044]

上記の構成により、分子間に作用する力の小さい等方相において、第一電界および第二電界により、配向規制力をバルク領域にまで作用させることができる。また、等方相においては液晶分子の屈折率が電界強度の2次に比例するカー効果を増大させることができるため、応答速度が本質的に速いカー効果を用いて、高速応答性能を有する表示案子を実現できる

上記液晶性物質を構成する分子は、電圧無印加時に光学波長以下の秩序構造を有し、電圧を印加することによって上記秩序構造が変化して光学的異方性を示すことが好ましい。 【0045】

上記の構成により、第一電界および第二電界を用いて、液晶性物質を構成する液晶分子 の秩序構造を変化させて光学的異方性を発現させることができる。

## [0046]

また、上記基板の少なくとも一方と、上記誘電性物質層との間に、上記誘電性物質層に 含まれる液晶性物質の液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向さ せる配向膜が設けられていてもよい

上記の構成とすると、配向膜がさらに電圧印加時の光学的異方性発現を促進し、低電圧で、光学的異方性が発現する表示素子を実現できる。

## [0047]

また、上記配向膜は、上記液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向させるためのラビング処理が施されていてもよい。

## [0048]

上記の構成とすると、ラビング処理された配向膜と第一電界および第二電界とによって 液晶分子を同じ方向に配向させることができる。これにより、配向膜と電界との相乗効果 により、低電圧で、光学的異方性が発現する表示素子を実現できる。

## [0049]

また、上記配向膜は、上記液晶分子を、上記第一電界および第二電界に概垂直な方向に配向させるための多数の溝が形成されていてもよい。

#### [0050]

上記の構成とすると、上記第一電界および第二電界と多数の溝が形成されている配向膜 とにより、低電圧で、光学的異方性が発現する表示案子を実現できる。

#### [0051]

また、上記多数の溝は、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対と平行な方向に延在する形状からなることが好ましい。

## [0052]

上記の構成とすると、第二の電界印加手段の構成部分が直方体形状を有する場合に、マ

イクログループによる光学的異方性発現の方位と、第二電界による光学的異方性発現の方位とが一致するので、低電圧で光学的異方性を発現することができる。

#### [0053]

また、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対が、上記基板面の法線方向から見て、ジグザグ形状を有する場合、上記多数の溝は、上記基板面の法線方向から見て、上記第一電極および第二電極における上記各電極対と平行な方向にジグザグに延在する形状からなることが好ましい。

## [0054]

上記の構成とすると、上記第二の電界印加手段の構成部分がジグザグ形状を有する場合に、異なる方向に光学的異方性が発現し、光学的異方性の方向同士が互いにジグザグ形状を成す複数の領域を有することができる。そのため、低電圧、かつ広視野角な表示素子が実現できる。

## [0055]

また、上記誘電性物質層に、上記光学的異方性の発現を促進させるための配向補助材が形成されていてもよい。

#### [0056]

上記の構成とすると、配向補助材がさらに電圧印加時の光学的異方性発現を補助し、低電圧かつ広温度範囲で、光学的異方性が発現する表示素子を実現できる。

#### [ 0057 ]

また、上記配向補助材は鎖状高分子材料、網目状高分子材料、多孔質無機材料、水素結合体の何れかからなることが好ましい。

#### [0058]

上記の構成とすると、電圧印加時の光学的異方性発現を補助し、低電圧かつ広温度範囲 で発現させることが可能な配向補助材を、適切に形成できる。

## [0059]

また、上記誘電性物質層に、カイラル剤が添加されていてもよい。あるいは、上記誘電性物質層に封入する液晶性物質が、カイラル物質であってもよい。

## [0060]

これらの構成によれば、誘電性物質層に添加されているカイラル剤により、液晶性物質を構成する液晶分子同士を結び付けて、各液晶分子を、長軸方向が電界に垂直であって、かつ、一方の電極から他方の電極にかけて各液晶分子の長軸方向が螺旋状となるように配向させることができる。そして、この、らせん構造による、光の分子長軸の方向に沿った旋光によって光学的異方性を発現させることができる。よって、配向膜を用いること無しに、低電圧で液晶分子を配向させることができる。

#### [0061]

また、上記誘電性物質層に封入する液晶性物質は、電界強度の2次に比例して屈折率が 変化するものであってもよい。

## [0062]

上記の構成とすると、第一電界および第二電界により、液晶分子の屈折率が電界強度の 2次に比例するカー効果を、バルク領域にまで及ぼすことができる。従って、応答速度が 本質的に速いカー効果を用いて、高速応答性能を有する表示索子を実現できる

また、本発明による表示装置は、上記のいずれかの表示案子を具備していることを特徴とする。

## [0063]

上記の構成とすることで、画索の1部、または1画索に上記液晶素子を有する表示装置が実現される。これにより、低電圧駆動で高速応答性能を有する、テレビ放送やビデオ、DVDなどの画像を表示する表示装置、ワープロ、パソコン、携帯電話などに備えられる表示装置、フラットパネルディスプレイ(FPD(flat panel display))テレビなどが実現できる。

## 【発明の効果】

#### [0064]

上記の構成とすると、電界印加手段は、電気力線が基板の面に垂直な方向の第一電界、および電気力線が基板の面に平行な方向の第二電界を含む電界を生じさせ、第一電界および第二電界を含む電界によって、等方相を呈している液晶分子を配向させる。 (0065)

そのため、上記の2つの電界のどちらか一方が存在する場合より低い電圧を印加して、 誘電性物質層に電界を生じさせ、液晶分子に光学的異方性を発現させることが可能となる。 また、上記の2つの電界により、応答性よく液晶分子を配向させることできる。よって 、低電圧駆動で、高速応答性能を有する表示案子を実現することができる。 【0066】

また、上記第一電界がきっかけとなって上記第二電界における光学的異方性の発現を促進させる、或いは、上記第二電界がきっかけとなって上記第一電界における光学的異方性の発現を促進させる場合は、より低い電圧を印加することで液晶分子に光学的異方性を発現させることが可能となる。

【発明を実施するための最良の形態】

[0067]

#### [実施の形態1]

本発明の一実施の形態について図に基づいて説明する。図1(a)は本実施形態に係る表示素子100の概略構成を示した断面図である。なお、図1(a)は、電圧が印加されていない状態を示している。

#### [0068]

なお、表示素子100は、駆動回路や信号線、走査線、スイッチング素子などとともに表示装置に備えられるものである。また、表示素子100は、等方相(アイソトロピック相)を呈している液晶材料に電界を印加して、電界強度の2次に比例する屈折率変化(カー効果)を発現させ、表示を行うものである。

## [0069]

この図に示すように、表示素子100は、対向する透光性基板(基板)6.7と、透光性基板6における透光性基板7との対向面に設けられた櫛歯状電極(第一電極、第二電極)4と、透光性基板6の上記対向面に櫛歯状電極4を覆うように設けられた配向膜3と、透光性基板7における透光性基板6との対向面に設けられた平板状電極(第三電極)5と、透光性基板7の上記対向面に平板状電極5を覆うように設けられた配向膜3と、透光性基板6および7における他方の基板との対向面とは反対側の面にそれぞれ設けられた偏光板(偏光索子)8.9と、透光性基板6-7間(配向膜3-2間)に形成された誘電性物質層1とからなる。

#### [ 0070 ]

透光性ガラス基板 6, 7 は、可視光に対して透明な基板であり、その材質は特に限定されないが、例えばガラスからなる。

#### [0071]

誘電性物質層1には、液晶分子としてネガ型液晶材料(ネガ型ネマティック液晶材料) Aが封入されている。また、表示案子100では、この誘電性物質層1に電界を印加する ことによって生じるネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子の配向性(光学的異方性)により、表示 案子100に光が透過する状態と透過しない状態とを生じさせる。また、誘電性物質層1 における基板面垂直方向の厚さ(セル厚d)は5μmである。

#### [0072]

図8は、ネガ型液晶材料Aにおける液晶分子の誘電率 $\epsilon$ および屈折率nを説明するための説明図である。この図に示すように、ネガ型液晶材料Aにおいては、液晶分子の長軸方向の誘電率 $\epsilon$ 00億よりも、液晶分子の短軸方向の誘電率 $\epsilon$ 00億の方が大きく、 $\Delta \epsilon = \epsilon_{\parallel} - \epsilon_{\perp}$ 00億は負になる。すなわち、ネガ型液晶材料とは、負の誘電異方性を有する液晶分子からなる液晶材料(ネガ型の性質を示す液晶性物質)である。

#### [0073]

また、本実施形態で用いたネガ型液晶材料 Aは、以下に示す5種類のエステル系のネガ型液晶材料を混合したものであり、 $\Delta$ n=0.15,  $\Delta$ e=-14, ネマティック相(液晶相)-アイソトロピック相(等方相)の相転移温度 $T_{n,i}$ =62  $\mathbb C$ という物性を示す。ここで、 $\Delta$ nは、長軸方向の屈折率  $n_e$ と短軸方向の屈折率  $n_e$ との差である。また、 $T_{n,i}$ は、ネマティック相一アイソトロピック相転移温度である。なお、ネマティックーアイソトロピック相転移温度とは、ネマティック相から温度を上昇させたときに、ネマティック相から等方相へ相転移する温度(臨界温度)である。

[0074]

【化1】

[0075]

【化2】

$$RO - COO - R'$$

[0076]

【化3】

$$R COO CN$$
 $CN$ 

[0077]

[124]

[0078]

$$R \longrightarrow COO \longrightarrow R'$$

#### [0079]

なお、上記の各化学式中、R、R はアルキル鎖を示す。

#### [0080]

このように、本実施形態では誘電異方性が負のネガ型液晶材料Aを誘電性物質層1に封入しているので、誘電性物質層1に電界を印加すると、ネガ型液晶材料Aの分子長軸は電界方向と垂直な方向を向く。すなわち、ネガ型液晶材料Aの方向(分子長軸方向)は、電界と直交する方向となる。

## [0081]

なお、分子長軸方向の誘電率  $\varepsilon$  』より分子短軸方向の誘電率  $\varepsilon$  』の方が小さいボジ型液晶材料(誘電異方性が正の液晶材料)では、ネガ型液晶材料Aの場合とは逆に、分子長軸方向が電界方向を向く。本実施形態でボジ型ではなく、ネガ型の液晶材料を用いた理由は以下で詳細に述べるが、基板面内方向電界(第二電界)と、基板法線方向電界(第一電界)との両方で、光の位相差(リターデーション)を発生させ、光学異方性を発現させることができるからである。基板面内方向電界とは、基板面に概平行な方向(基板面内方向)の電気力線を含む電界であり、基板法線方向電界とは、基板面に概垂直な方向(基板法線方向)の電気力線を含む電界である。

## [0082]

偏光板8および偏光板9は、光波の振動を所定の方向に制限する。これにより、誘電性物質層1のネガ型液晶材料Aが所定の方向に配向しているときに、光が表示素子100を透過する。

## [0083]

配向膜2および3は、配向膜2と配向膜3との間に誘電性物質層1にネガ型液晶材料Aを封入する前に、配向膜2および配向膜3にラピング処理が施されており、これによって、基板界面付近のネガ型液晶材料Aに配向規制力を与え、一定方向に配向させるものである。なお、表示素子100では、配向膜2および配向膜3として、従来のネマティック液晶表示素子(モード)で広く実績のあるポリイミドを用いている。

#### [0084]

図2は、配向膜2および3に施したラビング方向、および、偏光板8および9の吸収軸の方向を示している。この図に示すように、配向膜2および3のラビング方向は互いに反平行(平行かつ反対方向;逆平行)であり、両基板の基板面に平行かつ樹歯状電極4によって印加される電界に直交する方向(y方向)となっている。なお、この図に示すように、本実施形態では、乙は両基板に垂直な方向、Xは両基板の基板面に平行かつ櫛歯状電極4によって印加される電界に平行な方向、Yは両基板の基板面に平行かつ櫛歯状電極4によって印加される電界に直交する方向を指すものとする。

#### [0085]

したがって、図1(a)では、配向膜3のラビング方向は、透光性基板6に平行、かつ、紙面垂直方向(図面座標系で+y方向)であり、配向膜2のラビング方向は、透光性基板6に平行、かつ、紙面垂直方向(図面座標系で-y方向)である。

#### [0086]

また、図2に示すように、偏光板8および9は、クロスニコル(互いの吸収軸のなす角が90°)に配置されている。また、配向膜2および3に施したラビング方向と、偏光板

8 および 9 における吸収軸方向とは 4 5°の角度をなすように配置されている。 【0087】

従って、誘電性物質層1のネガ型液晶材料Aが光学的等方性を示す場合は、光が透過しない暗状態、誘電性物質層1のネガ型液晶材料Aが光学的異方性を示す場合は、光が透過する明状態になる。

#### [0088]

櫛歯状電極4は、誘電性物質層1に対して、基板面方向(基板面に平行な方向)および 基板法線方向(基板面に垂直な方向)に電界を印加する手段であり、その金属膜種として は、透明電極材料(可視光に対して透明な電極材料)であるITO(錫酸化物(indium t in oxide))を用いている。図1(a)に示したように、櫛歯状電極4は、紙面垂直方向 (y方向)に延びる複数の櫛歯状の電極部分(電極対)が、x方向に互いに対向するよう にストライプ状にパターニングされてなる。

#### [0089]

図3に、櫛歯状電極4を基板面に垂直な方向から見た場合の平面図を示す。この図に示すように、櫛歯状電極4は、ストライプ状に交互に配置された櫛歯状電極4a(第一電極)および櫛歯状電極4b(第二電極)からなり、この櫛歯状電極4aおよび櫛歯状電極4bにそれぞれ逆極性の電位を与えることにより、両電極4a・4b間に電界を生じさせるようになっている。

#### [0090]

なお、櫛歯状の各電極部分における断面 (X-Z面の断面) は、直方体形状であり、電極幅 (x方向の幅) Lは4μm、電極間隔 (x方向の電極間隔) Sは4μmである (図1 (a) 参照)。

#### [0091]

また、櫛歯状電極4は、基板面法線方向に電界を印加する手段としても機能する。すなわち、表示素子100では、櫛歯状電極4と平板状電極5とによって、両基板間に電界を印加するようになっている。

#### [0092]

なお、平板状電極5は、透光性基板7における誘電性物質層1側の表面に、平板形状で 形成されている。また、平板状電極5は、櫛歯状電極4と同様、透明電極材料であるIT Oからなる。

#### [0093]

ところで、図1(a)に示したように、表示素子100に電圧が印加されていない状態 (基板面内方向および基板面法線方向のいずれにも電界が印加されていない状態)において、ネガ型液晶材料Aは、基板面(配向膜2,3)との界面付近の領域では、基板面2および3に施されたラビング処理によって生じる配向規制力により、分子長軸方向が、各配向膜に施されたラビング方向に平行な方向を向いている。すなわち、光学的異方性を示している。

#### [0094]

これに対し、セル内部のバルク領域では、ネガ型液晶材料Aに対して、ラビング処理の配向規制力(分子を配向するよう規制する力)より熱運動のファクターが支配的であって、ネガ型液晶材料Aは全くランダムな方向を向いている。すなわち、光学的等方性を示している。ここで、セル内部のバルク領域とは、誘電性物質層1内部の配向膜2および配向膜3から離れた、極歯状電極4上のセル中層部の領域である。

#### [0095]

ここで、表示累子100の光学特性を調べるために行った実験の結果について説明する。まず、表示累子100を使用する前に、表示累子100を、ネガ型液晶材料Aのネマティックーアイソトロピック相転移温度( $T_{n_i}$ )の1 K上の温度( $T=T_{n_i}+1$ )まで加熱してその温度で保温した。この温度では、ネガ型液晶材料Aは等方相を呈している。等方相においては、ネガ型液晶材料Aは、液体と同じように、熱力学的揺らぎのファクター(運動エネルギー)が分子間に作用する力より大きい。そのため、基板界面付近の領域

を除く領域では、分子は自由に移動・回転している。 【0096】

次に、図1(b)に示されるように、外部電源から電圧を印加した。すなわち、櫛歯状電極4の各電極4 a・4 bの一方に+9 V、他方に-9 V 平板状電極5に0 V の電位を与えた。すなわち、櫛歯状電極4の各電極4 a・4 b間の電位差(電圧)は18 V、櫛歯状電極4(4 aおよび4 b)と平板状電極5との間の電位差(電圧)は9 V である。これにより、誘電性物質層1 内において、電界強度分布が面(z-y 平面)に対称的な電界を生じさせることができる。

#### [0097]

このとき、櫛歯状電極4と平板状電極5との電位差により、誘電性物質層1内に、基板 法線方向電界が生じる。また、櫛歯状電極4aと櫛歯状電極4bとの電位差により、誘電性物質層1内に基板面内方向電界が生じる。また、上記に示した条件より、基板面内方向の電界強度 $E_{\parallel}$ としては $E_{\parallel}=18/4=4$ .  $5V/\mu m$ 、基板法線方向の電界強度 $E_{\perp}$ としては $E_{\perp}=9/5=1$ .  $8V/\mu m$ である。

#### [0098]

上記のように誘電性物質層1に電界を印加することにより、図1(b)に示されるように、ネガ型液晶材料Aは、分子長軸方向が、電界と直交する方向であるy方向(紙面垂直方向)を向いて配向する。

#### [0099]

また、櫛歯状電極4および平板状電極5として透明電極を使用しているため、ネガ型液晶材料Aをy方向に配向させることで、櫛歯状電極4の各電極間の領域(Sの長さを有する領域、以下S領域)と、櫛歯状電極4の各電極上の領域(Lの長さを有する領域、以下L領域)との両方の領域において、光透過状態(明状態)とすることができる。 【0100】

なお、表示素子100では、上記のように基板面内方向と基板法線方向の両方に同時に電界を印加するようになっている。この場合、基板面内方向の電界強度の方が、基板面法線方向の電界強度より強いので、櫛歯状電極4の各電極4a・4b間における液晶分子に最初にカー効果が生じて、その領域の液晶分子がy方向に配向する。

#### 【0101】

また、カー効果による液晶分子の配向状態が、隣接する液晶分子を同方向に配向させようとする分子間相互作用によって、櫛歯状電極4の各電極間以外の領域における液晶分子に伝達される。

#### 【0102】

さらに、この分子間相互作用による液晶分子の配向が引き金となって、ネガ型液晶材料 Aの液晶分子をy方向に配向させる基板面法線方向の電界による配向規制力によって液晶分子がy方向に配向する。すなわち、分子間相互作用および基板面法線方向の電界による 2つの配向規制力の相乗効果によってバルク領域の液晶分子が配向する。セル内部のバルク領域のネガ型液晶材料 Aがy方向を向く。セル内部のバルク領域とは、図1(b)における四角で囲まれた領域であり、図1(b)では、この領域内の液晶分子にハッチングを施している。

## [0103]

次に、平板状電極5の電位を0V(GND)とし、梅歯電極4の電位を、隣接する櫛歯電極4a・4bの電位が逆極性かつ絶対値が等しい状態を保つように変化させることにより、表示素子100における光学特性の定量評価を行った。

## [0104]

その結果、印加電圧に応じて光学的異方性が発現し、偏光板クロスニコル下で光が透過してきて明状態となり、この明るさが最初に最大になる櫛歯電極4・4間の電圧Vmaxは、21Vであった。

## [0105]

次に、比較のために、透光性基板7側に平板状電極5を形成しない以外は、表示案子1

00と同様に作成した表示索子101(図10参照)を用意し、その光学特性の定量評価を行った。

#### [0106]

表示素子101における櫛歯電極4・4間に印加する電圧を、隣接する櫛歯電極4・4における電位が逆極性かつ絶対値が等しくなるように変化させ、明るさが最初に最大になる櫛歯電極間の電圧Vmaxを測定したところ、Vmaxは49Vであった。つまり、表示素子100に比べて、2倍以上になった。

#### [0107]

ここで、表示素子101が、表示素子100の2倍以上のVmaxを有する理由としては、以下のことが挙げられる。すなわち、表示素子101では、櫛歯状電極4・4間に電圧を印加しても、平板状電極5を備えていないので、セル内部のバルク領域において基板法線方向には電界が生じない。このため、図10に示したように、バルク領域における液晶分子の配向方位は定まらず、櫛歯電極4上の領域の大部分は光学的等方性を示す。つまり、この領域は暗状限のままであって、光学的異方性の発現に寄与するのは、櫛歯状電極4の各電極間の基板面内方向電界のみであり、明るさを最大に至らしめるには、表示素子100と比較して約2倍以上の電圧を要することになる。

#### [0108]

さらに、表示素子100との比較のために、図11に示すように、透光性基板6および 透光性基板7の双方に、平板状電極のみを有する表示素子102を用意し、その光学特性 の定量評価を行った。なお、表示素子102は、表示素子100における櫛歯状電極4に 代えて、透光性基板6上に平板状電極5を形成した以外は、表示素子100と同様に形成 した。

#### [0109]

表示条子102の両基板6,7における平板状電板 $5\cdot5$ 間に印加する電圧を変化させ、明るさが最初に最大になる平板状電板 $5\cdot5$ 間の電圧Vmaxを測定したところ、Vmaxは62Vであった。つまり、表示素子100に比べて3倍程度になった。

#### [0110]

ここで、表示素子102におけるVmaxが、表示素子100の3倍程度となった理由として、以下のことが挙げられる。

## [0111]

表示案子102では両基板6,7に形成された平板状電極5しか有さず、櫛歯状電極4を備えていないため、基板法線方向の電界しか印加できない。配向膜2および配向膜3にはラビング処理を施してあるので、配向膜2および配向膜3の界面近傍の液晶分子は、電圧無印加時においても、配向膜2,3に施したラビング方向を向いている。そして、この状態で電界を印加すると、この界面近傍における配向規制力の影響を受けて、セル内部のバルク領域の液晶性物質もある程度、配向膜2,3に施したラビング方向と同じ方向である紙面垂直方向(y方向)を向く。

## [0112]

しかしながら、このラビング処理の影響によってバルク領域の液晶分子を配向させる力は、等方相における熱運動エネルギーに打ち勝ってy方向に向かせる程、十分大きくはない。このため、バルク領域における液晶分子を十分にy方向に向かせるためには、さらに大きい電圧を印加しなければならず、Vmaxは上昇し、表示案子100と比べて約3倍となる。

#### (0113)

従って、表示素子100、表示累子101、および表示素子102に、同じ電界強度の電界を印加した場合、図1(b)、図10、図11に示した各表示素子における液晶分子の配向状態からも明らかなように、表示素子100における液晶分子が最もy方向に揃って配向しており、したがって、表示素子100における光の透過率が最も高くなる。

#### [0114]

以上のように、本実施形態にかかる表示索子100では、透光性基板6における基板面

内方向に電界を印加する櫛歯状電極4と、透光性基板6に対向する透光性基板7に備えられ、透光性基板6における櫛歯状電極4との間で両基板法線方向の電界を印加する平板状電極5とを備えており、これによってネガ型液晶材料Aが封入された誘電性物質層1に対して基板面法線方向および基板面内方向の電界を印加する。

#### [0115]

これにより、櫛歯状電極4・4間の領域に作用する電界によってこの領域における液晶分子を電界に垂直な方向(y方向)に配向させることができる。また、この領域における液晶分子が配向することによって隣接するバルク領域における液晶分子が分子間相互作用によって配向する効果と、櫛歯状電極4と平板状電極5との間に作用する基板面法線方向の電界によってバルク領域の液晶分子が配向する効果とが相乗的に作用し、バルク領域の液晶分子を十分にy方向に配向させることができる。

#### [0116]

このため、表示素子100では、最大透過率を得るために必要な駆動電圧を、低く抑えることができる。

#### [0117]

なお、実施形態 1 においては上下基板 6.7の配向膜 2.3上にラビング処理を施している。このため、図 1 (b)のように基板法線方向の電界を印加すると、ラビングされた配向膜界面の影響をある程度受けて櫛歯電極 4 上の液晶分子をある程度 y 方向に配向させる力はある。しかしながら、図 1 (b)で四角で囲まれ、ハッチングを施された液晶分子までは充分に y 方向に向かせる力はない。それにもかかわらず、表示素子 100において、セル中層部の液晶分子までも充分 y 方向に配向させることができたのは、あくまでも基板面内方向電界部、即ち、櫛歯電極 4・4間の分子配向が大きく作用しているためである。【0118】

また、上述したように、表示素子100において、セル内部のバルク領域でもネガ型液晶材料Aがy方向に配向するのは、液晶相は等方相中にありながらネマティック液晶相で見られるような液晶分子の弾性的な自己配向性が顕在化して、櫛歯電極上もより一層、液晶分子をy方向に配向するものと推察される。これは電極幅L、電極間隔Sともに4μmと非常に狭く、この程度のサイズの領域では等方相中でもある程度、分子間相互作用が働いているものと推察される。

#### [0119]

#### [実施の形態2]

次に、本発明の他の実施形態について図に基づいて説明する。尚、説明の便宜上、実施形態1にかかる表示素子100と同様の構成および機能を有する部材については同じ符号を付し、その説明を省略する。図4(a)~(d)は、本実施形態にかかる表示素子200の概略構成を示す断面図であり、櫛歯電極4・4間に働く、基板面内電界の方向(x方向)から見た断面図である。つまり、実施形態1において表示素子100の説明に用いた図1(a)、図1(b)とは、両基板面に平行、かつ、90度異なる方向から見た図である。

#### [0120]

また、図4(a)は高分子鎖を形成しない場合の、ネマティック相を呈した状態での電圧無印加時のマイクログループによる液晶分子の配向状態を示し、図4(b)は高分子鎖を形成した場合の、ネマティック相を呈した状態での液晶分子の配向状態を示し、図4(c)はアイソトロピック相を呈した状態での電圧無印加時のネガ型液晶材料Aの配向状態を示し、図4(d)はアイソトロピック相を呈した状態での電圧印加時のネガ型液晶材料Aの配向状態を示したものである。

#### [0121]

図4(b)に示すように、表示素子200は、実施形態1にかかる表示素子100と同様、一方の基板(透光性基板6)上には電極は櫛歯状電極4、他方の基板(透光性基板7)上には平板状電極5が形成されている。

#### [0122]

#### [0123]

[0124]

[0125]

また、誘電性物質層 1 には、表示素子 100 と同様の組成からなるネガ型液晶材料 A (  $\Delta$  n = 0 . 15 、  $\Delta$   $\epsilon$  = -14 、  $T_{n_1}$  = 62  $\mathbb C$  ) が封入されている。ネガ型液晶材料 A のネマティック相 - アイソトロピック相相転移温度  $T_{n_1}$  は 62  $\mathbb C$  なので、室温(例えば 約 30  $\mathbb C$  )ではネマティック相を示す。すなわち、図 4 ( 6 ) は、ネマティック相を示している状態における電圧無印加時の表示素子 200 の状態を示す断面図である。

一方、表示素子200が表示素子100と相違する点は、図4(b)に示したように、表示素子100における配向膜2,3(ポリイミドからなる、ラビング処理が施された配向補助材)に代えて、マイクログルーブ14,15が形成されている点、および、誘電性物質層1に封入されたネガ型液晶材料Aの中に高分子鎖22が形成されている点である。

マイクログルーブ 14, 15は、図4(b)中に示した方向(y方向)に延びる、ミクロな(微小な( $1\mu m$ 以下の))深さとピッチとを有する溝が形成されている。なお、マイクログルーブ 14, 15は、基板界面付近の液晶分子に対して、マイクログルーブの方向(溝の延在方向、y方向)への配向規制力を付与するものである。

#### [0126]

高分子鎖22は、ネガ型液晶材料Aを封入する際に添加された光重合性モノマーが、紫外線(光)が照射されることによって重合され、鎖状高分子(高分子鎖)を形成したものである。図4(b)に示すように、高分子鎖22は、その主要部分が、マイクルグループ14、15の延在方向(y方向)に延びている。なお、高分子鎖22の形成方法については、後で詳しく説明する。

## [0127]

ここで、マイクログルーブ14,15の形成方法について説明する。マイクログルーブ14,15は、例えばフォトレジストのような窓光性樹脂を露光、現像するといったフォトリソグラフィープロセスやスタンプ法(型押し法)、マスクUV露光プロセス等を経て作製する。

## [0128]

また、本実施形態では、マイクログルーブ14、15は櫛歯状電極4や平板状電極5の上に形成されている構成を示しているが、この構成に限定されるものではない。マイクログルーブ14、15をまず透光性基板6、7の上に形成して、その上に櫛歯状電極4や平板状電極5を形成してもよい。この場合、マイクログルーブ層の上に電極が存在していても、マイクログルーブの凹凸と比べて電極厚の方が小さいので、マイクログルーブの溝は電極上でも維持されて等方相中の液晶分子を配向させるのに充分な効果があることを確認した。

## [0129]

図9は、梅歯状電極4が形成された透光性基板6上に形成したマイクログルーブ15を示す断面図である。なお、この図は、梅歯状電極4a・4bの延在方向に垂直な方向、すなわち表示累子200を形成した場合に基板面内電界方向に垂直な方向(y方向)となる方向から見た断面図である。また、図9は、マイクログルーブ15の方向が1方向(y方向)の場合だけでなく、後述する、マイクログルーブ15がジグザグ形状を有する場合の断面形状も示している。

#### [0130]

この図に示したように、マイクログループ15は、透光性基板 6 側から突出する、多数の、ミクロな高さ(図中、 $\Delta$ m)とピッチ(図中、1(エル))とを有すると突出部(ミクロ山)(ミクロな深さとピッチとを有する多数のミクロ溝)からなる。

#### [0131]

なお、透光性基板7上(平板状電極5上)に形成されるマイクログループ14についても同様に、多数のミクロ溝(またはミクロ山)からなる。

#### [0132]

図4(a)は、上記のようにマイクログルーブ14,15を形成した透光性基板5,6 を対向させ、両基板間の領域である誘電性物質層1にネガ型液晶材料Aを封入した状態を示す断面図である。なお、この図は、室温における状態を示しており、したがって、ネガ型液晶材料Aはネマティック相を呈している。この図に示すように、マイクログルーブ14,15による配向規制力が液晶分子に作用し、ネマティック相を示す状態では、誘電性物質層1における液晶分子はマイクログルーブの方向(マイクログルーブの溝方向)に配向する。

#### [0133]

なお、液晶分子を配向させる、マイクログループ 14 およびマイクログループ 15 における突出部のピッチ 1 および高さ $\Delta$ mについて調べたところ、本実施形態にかかる表示案子 200では、ピッチ 1 は0.8  $\mu$ m、高さ $\Delta$ m は0.3  $\mu$ m であった。このようなスケールのマイクログループを形成することにより、ネマティック相(T< $T_{ni}$ )のネガ型 液晶材料  $\Delta$ をミクロ溝方向に充分に配向させることができる。

#### [0134].

次に、高分子鎖22の形成方法について説明する。誘電性物質層1に、ネガ型液晶材料 Aを封入する際、ネガ型液晶材料Aに光重合性モノマー(重合性化合物)(図示せず)を添加する。なお、光重合性モノマーに加えて、さらに、メチルエチルケトンパーオキサイドなどの、光重合性モノマーの重合を迅速に行わせるための重合開始剤(図示せず)を添加してもよい。

#### 【0135】

このように光重合性モノマーを添加したネガ型液晶材料Aを封入した誘電性物質層1は、ネマティックーアイソトロピック相転移温度(Tni)より低い温度(ネガ型液晶材料Aがネマティック液晶相を呈している状態)では、図4(a)の状態と同様、誘電性物質層1のほぼ全域において液晶分子が一方向(マイクログルーブの方向)に配向している。【0136】

次に、誘電性物質層1の温度をネマティックーアイソトロピック相転移温度( $T_{n,i}$ )より低い温度に保持しつつ、誘電性物質層1に紫外線を照射する。これにより、図4(b)に示すように、光重合性モノマーが重合し、高分子鎖22(配向補助材)(光重合性モノマーが重合した部分)が形成される。

#### [0137]

ここで、高分子鎖22は、平均的に液晶分子の配向方向(マイクログループ14およびマイクログループ15の方向)に平行な方向を向くように固定化される。これは、ネマティック液晶相の1軸配向状態(液晶分子が一方向に配向している状態)で光重合性モノマーを光重合させて、高分子ネットワーク(重合体)を形成したことによる。

#### [0138]

次に、表示素子200における動作について説明する。表示素子200を使用する際には、誘電性物質層1の温度をネマティックーアイソトロピック相転移温度( $T_{n,i}$ )より数 K程高い温度( $T=T_{n,i}+2$ )まで上昇させ、誘電性物質層1に封入したネガ型液晶材料Aがアイソトロピック相(等方相)を示す状態で用いる。

#### [0139]

図4 (c)は、誘電性物質層1の温度を $T_{n,i}$  + 2 ( $\nabla$ )とし、各電極に電圧を印加していない状態(電圧無印加時)における、マイクログルーブ14, 15の方向に沿った断面図である。

## [0140]

この図に示すように、ネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子はマイクログループ方向に略平行に 向いている高分子鎖22に囲まれた状態で(高分子鎖22同士の間で)、熱運動エネルギ ーが支配的となって等方相状態を呈する。これは、高分子鎖22が存在していても、それに囲まれた内部のネガ型液晶材料Aが熱運動的ファクターで全くランダムな方向を向いており、マクロに見ると光学的等方性を呈していることを示す。なお、この状態では、表示素子200は暗(黒)状態となっている。また、ネガ型液晶材料Aを囲んでいる高分子鎖22同士の間隔は可視光波長以下であるため、仮に散乱が起こっても可視光波長オーダーの光に対しては影響が無い。よって、表示素子200の誘電性物質層1は、目視上、散乱によって白濁している状態とはならない。

#### [0141]

このような等方相状態を保った状態で、各電極(櫛歯状電極4a・4b間および櫛歯状電極4-平板状電極5間)に電圧を印加する。すなわち、透光性基板6上に形成された櫛歯状電極4の各電極には+V、または-Vの電位を、対向側の透光性基板7上の平板状電極5には0V(GND)の電位を印加する。

#### [0142]

上記のように電圧を印加すると、図4(d)に示すように、ネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子は、マイクログルーブ14,15による分子配向規制力に加えて、高分子鎖22等の分子配向規制力により、誘電性物質層1のほぼ全域において、液晶分子がマイクログルーブ14,15および高分子鎖22の方向(基板面内位相差の方向、遅相軸方向)に配向し、光学的異方性を示す。

#### [0143]

以上のように、誘電性物質層1に封入するネガ型液晶材料Aに上記した光重合性モノマーを添加し、ネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子が一方向(マイクログルーブ14,15の方向)に配向した状態でこの光重合性モノマーを重合させることにより、この状態における液晶分子の配向方向と略平行な方向に延びる高分子鎖22を形成できる。

#### [0144]

そして、このように高分子鎖22を形成した表示索子200において、ネガ型液晶材料 Aが等方相を示す状態で各電極に電圧を印加することにより、マイクログルーブ14, 15による配向規制力に加えて、高分子鎖22等の分子配向規制力によって、誘電性物質層 1のほぼ全域において、液晶分子を配向させることができる。

#### [0145]

これにより、高分子鎖22を形成しない場合に比べて、表示素子200における明るさを最大とする駆動電圧を低くすることができる。

#### [0146]

なお、本実施形態では、基板界面付近の液晶分子に配向規制力を付与するための手段として、マイクログルーブ14,15を用いているが、これに限るものではない。例えば、マイクログルーブ13,15に代えて、実施形態1と同様、ラビング処理を施した配向膜を用いても上記した表示素子200と略同様の効果が得られる。

#### [0147]

また、表示素子200において高分子鎖22を形成しない構成、すなわち、実施形態1 にかかる表示素子100において、配向膜2、3をマイクログループ14、15に代えた だけの構成としてもよく、この場合には表示素子100と略同様の効果を奏する。

#### [0148]

また、上記の説明では、マイクログルーブ14,15の方向が1方向(y方向)の場合について説明したが、マイクログルーブの方向はこれに限るものではない。例えば、図5~7に示すように、ジグザグ形状としてもよい。

#### [0149]

図5は、マイクログルーブ14,15をジグザグ形状に形成した場合の、マイクログルーブ14,15の方向、および、偏光板9,10の吸収軸方向の一例を示している。この図に示すように、偏光板9および偏光板8の吸収軸は互いに直交する配置(クロスニコル)としており、マイクログルーブ14およびマイクログルーブ15の方向はジグザグになっていると共に、偏光板9および偏光板8の吸収軸とそれぞれ45°の角度を成す。また

、マイクログルーブ14におけるマイクログルーブの方向は、対向する位置におけるマイクログルーブ15におけるマイクログルーブの方向と略平行になっている。

【0150】

図6は、透光性基板6上に形成された櫛歯状電極4(櫛歯状電極4aおよび4b)の形状を示す平面図である。この図に示すように、表示素子200の櫛歯状電極4は、マイクログルーブ14およびマイクログルーブ15と同様にジグザグ状となっている。 【0151】

図9は、櫛歯状電極4が形成された透光性基板6上に形成したマイクログルーブ15を示す断面図である。またこの場合、図5におけるC-C'の線で示した位置における断面図である。この図に示すように、櫛歯状電極4の延在方向は、その上に形成されるマイクログルーブ15の方向と略平行になっている。

[0152]

図7(a)は、表示素子200における各電極間に電界を印加していないOFF時(電界無印加時)の状態における、液晶分子の配向状態を模式的に示す透視断面図である。また、図7(b)は、表示素子200における各電極間に電界を印加したON時(電界印加時)の状態を模式的に示す透視断面図である。

[0153]

図7(a)に示したように、OFF時にはネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子は、熱運動によって全くランダムな位置と方向とに配置される。すなわち、誘電性物質層1に含まれるネガ型液晶材料A全体がなす屈折率楕円体は、短軸方向の屈折率 $n_x$ 、 $n_y$ と、長軸方向の屈折率 $n_z$ とが等しくなり(屈折率 $n_x=n_y=n_z$ )、誘電性物質層1は光学的等方性を示す。

[0154]

これに対し、図7(b)に示したように、ON時には、マイクログループによる基板界面付近の液晶分子の配向規制力と、電界による電界と直行する方向への分子配向規制力とによって分子が電界方向と直交する方向に配向する。

【0155】

つまり、これらの2つの分子配向規制力(ファクター)は両方とも、ネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子をちょうど同じ方向(マイクログループ方向、電界直交方向)に向かせるように作用する。そのため、マイクログループによる分子配向規制力と合わさって、より効率的に、つまり、より低い電圧でネガ型液晶材料Aをマイクログループ方向に配向させることができる。これにより、誘電性物質層 1 に含まれるネガ型液晶材料A全体がなす屈折率楕円体は、短軸方向の屈折率 $n_b$  が、長軸方向の屈折率 $n_a$  より小さくなり( $n_a > n_b$ )、誘電性物質層 1 に光学的異方性が発現する。

[0156]

このように、マイクログルーブ14および15、櫛歯状電極4をジグザグ状に形成することにより、液晶分子を、基板面に平行であって、異なる方向に配向させることができる。これにより、簡易的にマルチドメイン化を実現できるので、表示素子200広、現野角な視覚特性(広視野角特性)を実現できる。つまり、表示素子200は、IPSモードのように基板面内で位相差を発現させるため、本質的に広視野角性能を有しているが、マイクログルーブを用いることにより、広視野角性能をより向上させることができる。また、マイクログルーブをジグザグに形成することは、ラビング法とは違って容易なので、簡易的にマルチドメイン化を実現できる。

[0157]

なお、櫛歯状電極4をストライプ状に形成することは特性上問題無いが、実パネルへの 適用する際に、広視野角特性化を実現するためには、梅歯状電極4をジグザグ状に形成す ることが好ましい。

[0158]

次に、表示索子200における光学特性を調査した結果について説明する。なお、ここでは、図5~図7に示したように、ジグザグ状の櫛歯状電極4およびマイクログループ1

次に、上記した表示素子200との比較のために、誘電性物質層1に光重合性モノマーを添加せず、高分子安定化されていない(ネガ型液晶材料A単独の系である)比較用表示素子に関して、電圧Vmaxについての評価を行った。なお、この比較用表示素子は、高分子安定化されていない以外は、表示素子200と同様に形成されている。 【0160】

この比較用表示素子において、誘電性物質層1の温度を $T_{n,i}$ +2(K)に保ち、各電極の電位を上記した表示素子200と同様に変化させたところ、明るさが最大となるときの、梅歯状電極4a+4b間の電圧Vmaxは110Vであった。

#### [0161]

上記の評価結果より、ネガ型液晶材料Aを高分子安定化した場合(高分子鎖22を形成した場合)、高分子安定化していない場合の約1/3の駆動電圧で明るさを最大にできることがわかる。

#### [0162]

次に、図5〜図7に示したようにジグザグ状の櫛歯状電極4およびマイクログルーブ14、15を形成した表示素子200において、明るさを最大にする駆動電圧に対する、温度の影響について評価した。表示素子200を、 $T_{n_1}$ 点より30K高い温度( $T=T_{n_1}$ +30)に保持するとともに、上記と同様に電圧を印加し、 $V_{max}$ を測定したところ、39Vであった。すなわち、表示素子200は、 $T_{n_1}$ +2<T<T $_{n_1}$ +30という広い温度範囲(温度幅約30K)において、駆動電圧の温度依存性をほぼフラットにすることができる。したがって、40V以下という、十分に実用化が可能となる低い駆動電圧で透過率が最大となる。

## [0163]

つまり、表示素子200のように高分子安定化を施しておくと、温度をT<sub>n</sub>」直上から 約30K程度高い温度においても高分子鎖22の壁の影響(壁によるアンカリング効果) を作用させることができる。そのため、高分子鎖22同士の間隔(高分子鎖22内部)程 度のサイズのネガ型液晶材料Aについて、分子同士の自己配向性に基づく相互作用を働か せることができ、駆動電圧をあまり上げることなく、光学的異方性を発現させることが可 能となる。

#### [0164]

このように、表示素子200では、(1)基板界面のマイクログルーブの効果、(2)基板面内方向電界と基板法線方向電界の効果、(3)マイクログルーブ方向に向いている高分子鎖22の壁面による効果、の3つの効果がそれぞれ相乗効果をもたらして、ネガ型液晶材料Aの液晶分子を効率よく配向させる。

#### [0165]

また、表示案子200におけるマイクログルーブ14,15はジグザグ形状を有し、協 歯状電極4はマイクログルーブ14に略平行に形成される。これにより、電圧印加時に基 板界面上のマイクログルーブ15と電界方向との合わせ技により、つまり、マイクログル ーブ15と梅歯状電極4a-4b間に作用する電界とが同一方向にネガ型液晶材料Aの液 晶分子を配向させることにより、一層低電圧でネガ型液晶材料Aを所望の方向に配向させ ることが可能となる。

#### 【0166】

また、マイクログルーブを液晶性物質の配向補助材として使用し、基板面内方向電界印

加手段である櫛歯状電極4のストライプ方向とマイクログルーブ方向とを一致させておき、ネガ型液晶材料Aを高分子安定化処理しておくことで、液晶性物質単独では実現し得ない低電圧、広温度範囲で駆動でき、かつ、高透過率、広視野角特性を有する表示素子を実現できる。

[0167]

また、本実施形態では、誘電性物質層1に形成する配向補助材として高分子鎖22を用いたが、配向補助材の構成はこれに限るものではない。例えば、液晶骨格と重合性官能基とを分子内に有する他の液晶(メタ)アクリレートや、エポキシアクリレートなどを用いてもよい。

[0168]

また、配向補助材を形成するために媒質に添加する重合性化合物は、光照射によって重合する光重合性モノマーに限らず、光照射以外の方法で重合する重合性モノマーであってもよい。

[0169]

また、上記したいずれの重合性化合物を用いる場合においても、重合性化合物の添加量は、配向補助材としての機能を十分に発揮でき、かつ、配向補助材に印加される電界の割合が大きくなって駆動電圧が増大してしまわないように、適宜調整することが好ましい。 【0170】

また、配向補助材の形状は高分子鎖に限らず、電圧印加によって分子が配向することを 補助(促進)できるものであればよく、例えば、網目状高分子(網目状高分子材料)、環 状高分子(環状高分子材料)などであってもよい。

[0171]

また、配向補助材は、必ずしも重合性化合物から形成する必要はない。例えば、配向補助材として多孔質無機材料を用いてもよい。この場合、例えば、チタン酸バリウムなどのゾルゲル材料(多孔質無機材料)を誘電性物質層1に封入する媒質(誘電性液体)にあらかじめ加えておけばよい。これにより、高分子鎖22(重合性化合物)からなる配向補助材と用いる場合と同等の効果を得ることができる。

[0172]

また、誘電性物質層1に形成する配向補助材として、水素結合ネットワーク(水素結合体)を用いることもできる。ここで、水素結合ネットワークとは、化学結合ではなく水素結合によって形成された結合体を意味する。

[0173]

また、本実施の形態では、重合開始剤を添加しているが、重合開始剤は、配向補助材を 重合性化合物から形成する場合であっても、必ずしも添加する必要はない。ただし、重合 性化合物を、例えば光や熱により重合して高分子化するためには、重合開始剤を添加する ことが好ましい。重合開始剤を添加することによって重合を迅速に行うことができる。な お、重合開始剤の添加量は、重合開始剤が不純物として作用し、表示累子の比抵抗が低下 しないように適宜調整することが好ましい。

[0174]

なお、上記した表示素子200の光学特性の調査では、 $T_{n,i}$ +30の場合についてしか調査していないが、さらに髙温にした場合にも、最大透過率を得るための駆動電圧は大きくは変化しないと思われる。例えば、 $T_{n,i}$ +60(K)までの温度範囲において最大透過率を得るための駆動電圧が大きくは変化しなければ、温度幅60Kにおいて駆動電圧の温度依存性をほぼフラットにすることができ、実用上好ましい。換言すれば、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質として、 $T_{n,i}$ +60(K)までの温度範囲において最大透過率を得るための駆動電圧が大きくは変化しない液晶性物質を用いることが好ましい。  $\{0175\}$ 

なお、上記においては、高分子鎖とマイクログループとを用いて、基板面内方向電界および基板法線方向電界に垂直な方向に液晶分子を配向させる構成とした。しかしながらこれに限定されるものではなく、高分子鎖のみを用いて、基板面内方向電界および基板法線

方向電界に垂直な方向に液晶分子を配向させる構成としてもよい。または、マイクログループのみを用いて、基板面内方向電界および基板法線方向電界に垂直な方向に液晶分子を配向させるようにしてもよい。

#### [0176]

## [実施の形態3]

本発明のさらに他の実施形態に係る表示案子300について説明する。尚、説明の便宜 上、実施形態1にかがる表示案子100と同様の構成および機能を有する部材については 同じ符号を付し、その説明を省略する。

#### [0177]

図12(b)に示すように、表示素子300は、実施形態1にかかる表示素子100と 同様、一方の基板(透光性基板6)上には櫛歯状電極4、他方の基板(透光性基板7)上 には平板状電極5が形成されている。

#### [0178]

極歯状電極4の電極幅(梅歯電極幅)し、電極間隔(梅歯電極間隔)S、誘電性物質層 1のセル厚dも実施形態1と同一である。即ち、L/S = 4μm/4μm、d=5μ mである。また、梅歯状電極4および平板状電極5の電極材料についても、実施形態1と 同様、すべてITOである。

#### [0179]

基板面内方向の電界強度 $E_{\parallel}$ 、基板法線方向の電界強度 $E_{\perp}$ も実施形態1と同一である。即ち、 $E_{\parallel}=1$ 8/4=4.5 $V/\mu$ m、 $E_{\perp}=9/5=1$ .8 $V/\mu$ mである。 [0180]

また、表示案子300においては、梅歯状電極4の電極間隔(x方向の電極間隔)Sが、梅歯状電極4と平板状電極5との間の電極間隔N(z方向の電極間隔)よりも狭い。また、梅歯状電極4の電極幅(x方向の幅)しが、梅歯状電極4の電極幅(y方向の幅)Mよりも狭い。

## [0181]

また、表示素子300には、表示素子100とは異なり、配向膜2および配向膜3が備えられていない。

## [0182]

また、表示素子300では、誘電性物質層1に封入するネガ型液晶材料Aにカイラル剤が添加されている点が、実施形態1と異なる。なお、カイラル剤は、捩れ力(ヘリカルツイストパワー)により液晶性物質を構成する液晶分子同士を結び付けて、液晶分子が配列している平面毎に分子長軸の角度がずれるツイスト(らせん)構造を有する、コレステリック相を形成するものである。カイラル剤としては、以下に示すカイラル剤S811(E. Merck社)が用いられている。

## [0183]

## 【化6】

#### [0184]

なお、カイラル剤S811とネガ型液晶材料Aとの混合物(カイラル剤添加液晶材料)は、カイラル剤S811重量%濃度が35%となるように調整されており、誘電性物質層1内において、コレステリック液晶相(カイラルネマティック液晶相)となっている。 【0185】

このようにカイラル剤が添加されていることにより、表示案子300における液晶分子は、電圧印加時には、図15に示すように、右捩れあるいは左捩れの一方向の学性を有す

るツイスト構造をなすクラスター(分子の小集団)が発生する。 【0186】

図15に示すように、コレステリック液晶相は、螺旋の中心軸の方向(螺旋軸方向、Helix方向、図中においてhで示される方向)が、ネガ型液晶材料Aのダイレクタ(分極双極子)の方向(図中においてnで示される方向)と垂直になっている。このカイラル削添加液晶材料レステリック液晶相(コレステリック相を呈する液晶性物質の集合体)について、カイラルビッチ(自発的捩れビッチ、ナチュラルカイラルビッチ)。pをCano-wed geセルを用いて外押により見積もったところ、約0.15μmであった。
[0187]

このように、カイラルピッチpの値が可視光波長より充分小さいと、カイラルネマティック液晶相(コレステリック液晶相)において、可視光の光はネガ型液晶材料Aの捩れを感ずることができずに、事実上、図15に示したような負の1軸性屈折率楕円体となる。【0188】

すなわち、コレステリック液晶相における屈折率楕円体は、Helix方向の屈折率 n よりもHelix方向に垂直な方向の屈折率  $n_{//}$ の方が大きい( $n_{//}$ > $n_{\perp}$ )、負の 1 軸性屈折率楕円体となる。なお、コレステリック液晶相がなす屈折率楕円体における短軸方向の屈折率  $n_{//}$ は、ネガ型液晶材料 A を構成する各液晶分子の短軸方向の屈折率  $n_{\odot}$  。 および 長軸方向の屈折率  $n_{\odot}$  を用いて、 $n_{//}=\Sigma\sqrt{(n_{\odot}^2+n_{\odot}^2)/2}$  で表される。また、コレステリック液晶相がなす屈折率楕円体における長軸方向の屈折率  $n_{\odot}$  は、各液晶分子における短軸方向の屈折率  $n_{\odot}$  と等しい( $n_{\perp}=n_{\odot}$ )。 【0189】

カイラルピッチpと捩れ力とは、反比例の関係であり、カイラルピッチpが短くなると 捩れ力は増大する。このため、カイラルピッチpが0.15μm程度の小さい場合には、 カイラル剤S811による捩れ力がカイラルピッチpの領域内に充分行き届いて液晶分子が1つの集団(クラスター)として強固に互いに結びつく。これは長距離秩序を有するネ マティック相の、一つ上の温度相である等方相においても成立する。すなわち、カイラル 剤を多量に添加することで、等方相においてもカイラルピッチp相当の短距離秩序領域を 形成できる。

[0190]

ここで、表示素子300の光学特性を調べるために行った実験の結果について、図12(a)、図12(b)、図16(a)、および図16(b)を用いて説明する。図12(a)は、表示素子300における電圧無印加時の状態を示す断面図であり、図12(b)は、表示素子300における電圧印加時の状態を示す断面図である。また、図12(a)および(b)は、基板面内方向(y軸方向)から見た場合の図である。図16(a)は、表示素子300の、電圧印加時にし領域でコレステリック相を呈している状態を示す断面図であり、図16(b)は、表示素子300の、電圧印加時にし領域で液晶分子が同一方向に配向した状態を示す断面図である。また、図16(a)および(b)は、基板法線方向から見た場合の、すなわち図12とは90度異なる方向から見た場合の図である。なお、各図ともに、誘電性物質層1の温度は液晶相一等方相の相転移温度よりも高い温度(T>Tn:)であり、誘電性物質層は等方相状態となっている。

まず、誘電性物質層1を等方相温度域に保持する。図12(a)に示すように、等方相 温度域においてOFF時(電圧無印加時)は、カイラル剤が上記のように多量に添加され ていても、カイラル剤添加液晶材料は光学的等方性を示しており、ネガ型液晶材料Aは全 くランダムな方向を向いている。

[0192]

一方、図12(b)に示すように、表示素子300は、ON時(電圧印加時)には、まず、櫛歯状電極4a-4b間の領域であるS領域においてカイラル剤の捩れ力による近接相互作用が働き、この領域に光学的異方性が発生する。

[0193]

すなわち、S領域において、ネガ型液晶材料Aのネガ型の性質により、液晶分子が電界方向と垂直な面内に配向しようとする。また、これと同時に、カイラル剤S811の捩れ力による近接相互作用により、Helix方向が電界方向と同じ方向に配向しようとする。なお、S領域では、基板面内方向の電界強度が基板法線方向の電界強度よりも強く(電界強度E』>電界強度E」)、櫛歯状電極4の電極間隔Sが、櫛歯状電極4と平板状電極5との間の電極間隔Nよりも狭いので、L領域における液晶分子の影響をあまり受けない

#### [0194]

これにより、S領域では、負の1 軸性屈折率楕円体(アンパン)が透光性基板6に対して立ち上がったような形と同様の配置(屈折率楕円体の長軸方向が透光性基板6の基板面に略垂直方向となる状態)となる。従って、コレステリック液晶相において $n_{//}-n_{\perp}>0$ であるため、透光性基板6と透光性基板7との間で位相差が発現して、光が透過する。 【0195】

また、し領域のネガ型液晶材料Aは、S領域におけるネガ型液晶材料Aの屈折率楕円体が立ち上がったような配向領域に挟まれる状態となっている。つまり、S領域におけるネガ型液晶材料Aの屈折率楕円体は、透光性基板6に垂直な方向(y方向)にストライプ状に伸びた壁のような状態となっており、L領域のネガ型液晶材料Aを挟んでいる。そして、L領域においては、ネガ型液晶材料Aはネガ型の性質により、液晶分子の配向方向(長軸方向)が、基板垂直方向の電界に垂直な方向、すなわち、基板面内方向に制限されている。

#### [0196]

すなわち、電界印加時にはまず、図16(a)に示されるように、カイラル剤が添加されていることによる効果から、L領域ではHelix方向が基板法線方向を向いたような形となる。

#### [0197]

しかし、L領域は、電極幅(x方向の幅)しが4μmと非常に狭く(電極幅(y方向の幅)Mよりも狭く)、また両サイドでS領域のy方向にストライプ状に伸びた壁に挟まれているため、両サイドの壁の効果(アンカリング効果)がL領域に瞬時に影響してくる。これにより、結果として、図16(b)に示されるように、L領域では液晶分子が平均的にy方向に配向した状態となる。これは、液晶分子が充分狭い幅の領域(L領域)に閉じ込められ、かつ、両サイドから一方向に伸びた壁に挟まれた場合、弾性的エネルギーが最小になるべく、液晶分子の長軸方向が壁と平行な方向に向こうとする、液晶分子の自己配向性能によるものである。また、この状態を光学的に表現すると、y方向に屈折率楕円体の長軸が伸びたような、ラグビーボールの長軸方向がy方向を向いたような状態である。【0198】

つまり、1)基板面内方向の電界強度が基板法線方向の電界強度よりも強いこと(電界強度 E<sub>I</sub> >電界強度 E<sub>I</sub> )、2) 梅歯状電極 4 の電極間隔(x 方向の電極間隔) Sが、梅歯状電極 4 と平板状電極 5 との間の電極間隔 N(z 方向の電極間隔)よりも狭いこと、3) 梅歯状電極 4 の電極幅(x 方向の幅) Lが、梅歯状電極 4 の電極幅(y 方向の幅) M よりも狭いことにより、L 領域の液晶分子には螺旋状の捩れが生じず、y 方向に配向する。

よって、L領域において、基板垂直方向電界および壁による分子配向規制力が合わさって(S領域の位相差の発生による影響を受けて)、ネガ型液晶材料Aがy方向に配向することにより、y方向に位相差が発現し光が透過する。そのため、表示素子300においては、S領域のみならず、L領域も含む全領域が透過領域として使用可能(表示可能)である。これにより、電界印加手段が透明電極であるため、高開口率かつ高透過率を有する表示素子を実現できる。

#### [0200]

ここで、表示素子300と比較するために、透光性基板7上に平板状電極5を形成しない以外は表示素子と同様に製作した比較用表示案子301(図13参照)、および、透光

性基板6上に、櫛歯状電極4に代えて平板状電極5を備えた比較用表示素子302(図14参照)を用意し、それらに電界を印加した場合の配向状態について調べた結果について 説明する。

#### [0201]

図13に示すように、表示素子301は、電圧印加手段として透光性基板6上の櫛歯状電極4のみを備え、透光性基板7上には平板状電極5(電圧印加手段)を備えていない。なお、電圧印加手段の構成以外は、表示素字300と同様になっている。

#### [0202]

この図に示すように、表示素子301においては、透光性基板7上には電圧印加手段を備えていないためし領域に電界が生じず、このエリア(領域)における液晶分子は配向しないので、し領域を表示領域として使用できない。

#### [0203]

図14に示すように、表示素子302は、透光性基板6および透光性基板7上に、それぞれ平板状電極5を備え、櫛歯状電極4を備えていない。なお、電圧印加手段の構成以外は表示素子300と同様な構成となっている。

#### [0204]

この図に示すように、表示素子302においては、基板垂直方向電界によって液晶分子が基板面内方向を向く。さらに、カイラル剤の捩れ力によって、液晶分子が基板面内において螺旋状に捩れて配向する。

#### [0205]

しかしながら、この場合、ネガ型液晶材料Aにおいては、光学的に見ると、負の1軸性 屈折率楕円体の光軸方向(屈折率楕円体の短軸方向)が基板法線方向(z方向)を向いて おり、透光性基板6と透光性基板7との間の位相差は実質的にゼロとなる。そのため、表 示素子302に縦方向電界(基板面法線方向の電界)を印加しても、全領域において位相 差は発現せず、光は透過しない。

## [0206]

以上のように、誘電性物質層1にカイラル剤を添加すると共に、櫛歯状電極4と平板状 電極5とを用いて電界を発生させることで、配向膜を用いること無しに、低電圧で液晶分 子を配向させることができる。

#### [0207]

また、配向膜やマイクログループを形成する必要がないので、製造工程を簡略化し、製造コストの低減を図ることができる。

#### [0208]

なお、上記の説明では、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質にカイラル剤を添加するものとしたが、これに限らず、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質として、その液晶性物質自身がカイラル性を有するもの(カイラル物質)を用いてもよい。この場合にも、カイラル剤を添加する構成と略同様の効果を得ることができる。

#### [0209]

上記各実施の形態において、透光性基板6、透光性基板7、梅歯状電極4、および平板 状電極5が透光性(可視光に対して透明である)であるとした。しかしながら、これに限 定されるものではなく、例えば透光性基板6、透光性基板7の一方が透光性を有しない基 板であってもよい。すなわち、透光性を有する基板側から入射した光(外光)を、他方の 基板側で反射し、入射側の基板から出射させる反射型の表示素子としてもよい。また、こ の場合、透光性を有さない基板上に形成される電極を非透光性材料で形成し、この電極よ りも光の入射側に反射手段を設けてもよい。

#### [0210]

また、一方の基板およびその基板に備えられる電極を、半透過型の材料で形成してもよい。この場合、暗い場所ではバックライトの光を透過させることにより表示を行い、明るい場所ではバックライトを使わず、外光を反射させることにより表示を行う半透過型の液晶ディスプレイを構成することもできる。

#### [0211]

また、上記各実施の形態においては、誘電性物質層1に含まれる液晶性物質をネガ型液晶材料Aであるとした。しかしながら、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質はこれに限定されるものではなく、基板面法線方向の電界と基板面内方向の電界とによって、同一方向の光学異方性が発現するものであればよい。

#### [0212]

また、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質は、単一化合物で液晶性を示すものであってもよく、複数の物質の混合により液晶性を示すものでもよい。あるいは、これらに他の非液晶性物質が混入されていてもよい。

#### [0213]

また、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶性物質として、例えば、光学波長以下の秩序構造を有し、光学的には等方的に見える液晶相のうち、誘電異方性が負のものを適用することができる。これらに電界を印加することにより、分子あるいは集合体の微細構造にひずみを与え、光学変調を誘起させることができる。また、これらの液晶性物質を用いる場合にも、配向補助材を形成しておくことによって分子の配向を促進できるので、低電圧で駆動することが可能となる。

#### [0214]

なお、誘電性物質層1中に、高分子鎖22などの配向補助材を形成する場合には、ネガ型の性質を示す液晶材料であり、等方相を示す1つ下の温度範囲でネマティック相を呈する液晶性物質を用いることが好ましい。これにより、例えば高分子安定化(配向補助材の形成)を、界面の影響がバルク領域を含む液晶相全体に伝播しているネマティック相にて行うことができる。

#### [0215]

また、誘電性物質層1に封入する液晶材料は、 $\Delta$ nおよび $\Delta$  $\epsilon$ が共に大きく、かつ $T_n$ ,が室温に近いことが好ましい。

## [0216]

また、表示素子100、表示案子200、または表示素子300を備えた表示装置を用いることもできる。すなわち、本発明の表示案子を複数備えるとともに、各表示案子における電圧印加状態と電圧無印加状態とを切り替えるスイッチング手段、各スイッチング手段の動作を制御する制御手段を備えた表示装置を構成することができる。

#### [0217]

本発明の表示素子を用いて表示装置を構成することにより、低電圧駆動、広温度範囲かつ広視野角性、高速応答性をトレードオフなく可能にすることができる表示装置を実現できる。

## [0218]

本発明の表示装置は、画素の1部、または1画素に、表示素子100、表示素子200、表示素子300の何れかを有するものである。例えばテレビ放送やビデオ、DVDなどの画像を表示する表示装置、ワープロ、パソコン、携帯電話などに備えられる表示装置などであってもよい。また、低電圧駆動、広温度範囲かつ広視野角性、高速応答性をトレードオフなく実現できるので、次世代FPD(フラットパネルディスプレイ)テレビとしても非常に有望である。

## 【0219】

本発明は上述した各実施形態に限定されるものではなく、請求項に示した範囲で種々の変更が可能であり、異なる実施形態にそれぞれ開示された技術的手段を適宜組み合わせて得られる実施形態についても本発明の技術的範囲に含まれる。

## 【産業上の利用可能性】

#### [0220]

本発明の表示案子は、液晶を用いて表示を行う表示装置全般に用いることができる。例 えば、PCや携帯電話などに備えられる表示装置、テレビ、次世代FPDなど、様々な用 途で用いられる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

[0221]

【図1】本発明の一実施形態にかかる表示素子の構成を示す断面図であり、(a)は電圧 無印加時の誘電性物質層の光学的等方性を示す断面図であり、(b)は電圧印加時に発現 する誘電性物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図2】図1の表示素子における、偏光板の偏光軸方向、およびラビング方向の配置関係を示す、基板法線方向から見た時の平面図である。

【図3】図1の表示素子における、第二の電界印加手段、基板面内方向電界方向、および 基板法線方向電界方向の配置関係を示す、基板法線方向から見た時の平面図である。

【図4】本発明の他の実施形態にかかる表示素子の構成を示す断面図であり、(a)は高分子鎖を形成しない場合の、ネマティック相状態での電圧無印加時のマイクログルーブによる液晶分子の配向状態を示し、(b)はネマティック相状態での電圧無印加時の液晶分子の配向状態を示し、(c)はアイソトロピック相状態での電圧無印加時の液晶分子の配向状態を示し、(d)はアイソトロピック相状態での電圧印加時の液晶分子の配向状態を示したものである。

【図5】図4の表示素子における、偏光板の偏光軸方向、およびマイクログループの溝方向の配置関係を示す、基板法線方向から見た時の平面図である。

【図6】図4の表示素子における、第二の電界印加手段、基板面内方向電界方向、および 基板法線方向電界方向の配置関係を示す、基板法線方向から見た時の平面図である。

【図7】図4の表示素子における、液晶性物質の配向状態を示し、(a)は電圧無印加時の基板法線方向から見たときの平面図であり、(b)は電圧印加時の基板法線方向から見たときの平面図である。

【図8】本発明の一実施形態、および他の実施形態にかかる表示素子に用いるネガ型液晶 材料を示す斜視図である。

【図9】図4の表示素子における、基板、第二の電界印加手段、およびマイクログループを示す断面図である。

【図10】図1の表示素子に対する比較のための表示素子の、電圧印加時に発現する誘電性 物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図11】図1の表示素子に対する比較のための表示素子の、電圧印加時に発現する誘電性物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図12】本発明の他の実施形態にかかる表示素子の構成を示す断面図であり、(a)は電圧無印加時の誘電性物質層の光学的等方性を示す断面図であり、(b)は電圧印加時に発現する誘電性物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図13】図12の表示案子に対する比較のための表示素子の、電圧印加時に発現する誘電性物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図14】図12の表示素子に対する比較のための表示素子の、電圧印加時に発現する誘電性物質層の光学的異方性を示す断面図である。

【図15】図12の表示素子に用いる、コレステリック相を呈する液晶性物質の集合体を示す斜視図である。

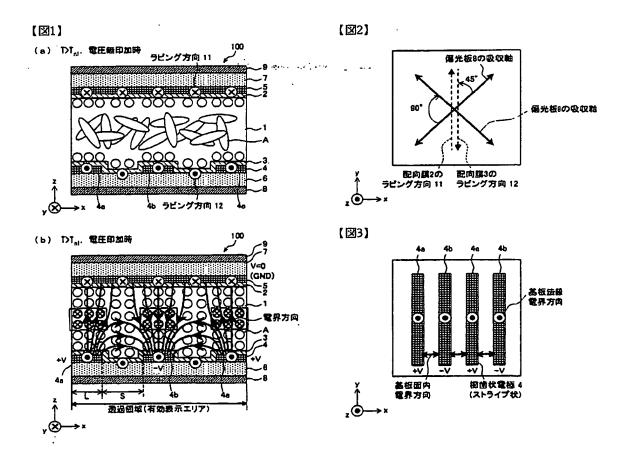
【図16】図12の表示素子の構成を示す断面図であり、(a)は電圧印加時に第一電極および第二電極上でコレステリック相を呈する液晶性物質の集合体が生じている状態を示す断面図であり、(b)は電圧印加時に第一電極および第二電極上で液晶分子が同一方向に配向した状態を示す断面図である。

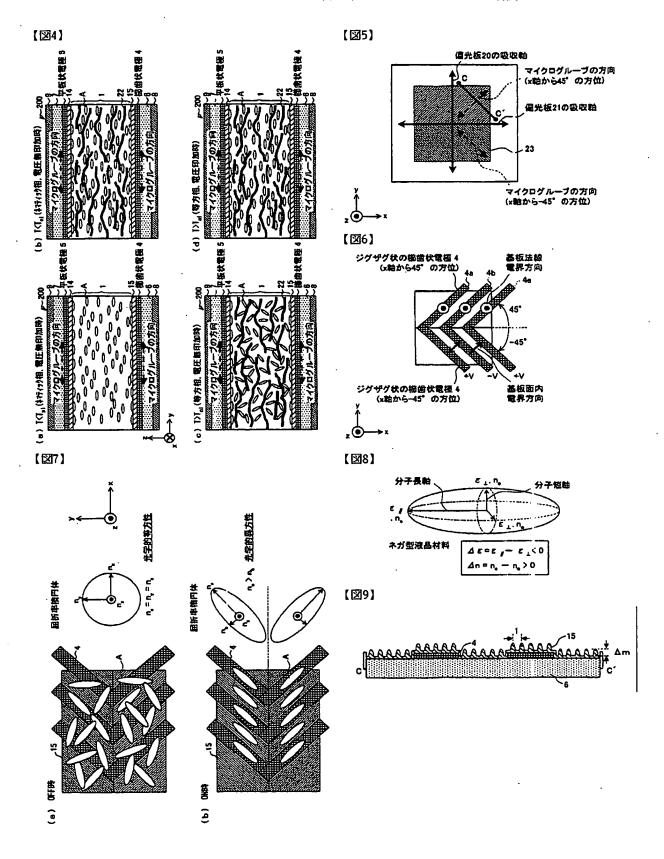
## 【符号の説明】

## [0222]

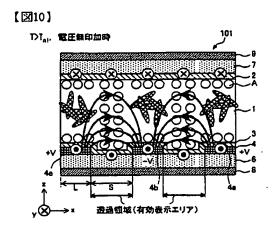
- 1 誘電性物質層
- 2 配向膜
- 3 配向膜
- 4 梅歯状電極(第一電極、第二電極)
- 4 a 櫛歯状電極 (第一電極、電極対)

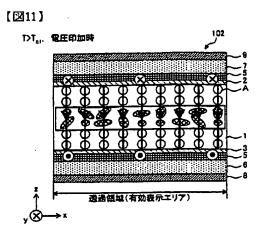
- 4 b 櫛歯状電極(第二電極、電極対) 5 平板状電極(第三電極)
- 6 透光性基板(基板)
- 7 透光性基板(基板)
- 8 偏光板
- 9 偏光板
- 10 ネガ型液晶材料A(液晶性物質)
- 11 ラピング方向
- 12 ラビング方向
- 14 マイクログルーブ(配向膜)
- 15 マイクログルーブ(配向膜)
- 22 高分子鎖(配向補助材)
- 100 表示素子
- 101 比較用表示案子
- 102 比較用表示素子
- 200 表示素子
- 300 表示素子
- 301 比較用表示素子
- 302 比較用表示素子

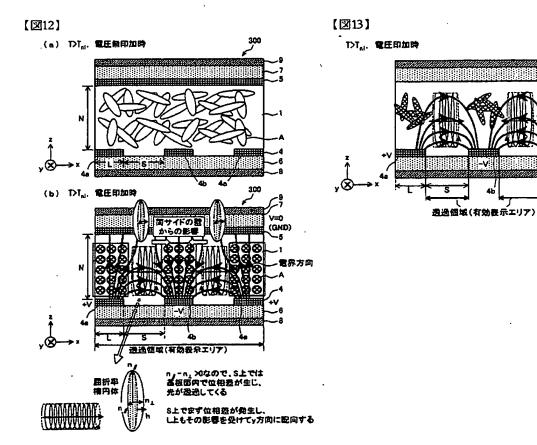


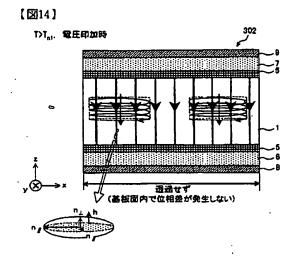


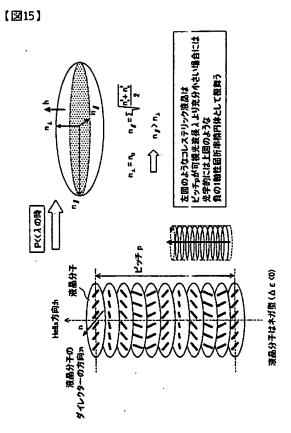
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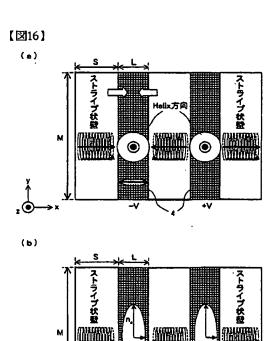












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MA10 MA11

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QA11